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TORONTO • WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2009 met

Sports pg 11

Monster of a goalie joining Burke's Leafs

'Best father you could ever imagine'

CHILDREN Michael Jackson protected his children from the press, but the three youngsters appeared on a world stage yesterday to honour their father at his public memorial service.

Daughter Paris-Michael addressed the crowd, making an emotional statement to an audience of thousands at the Staples Center and millions more around the globe who watched the service on TV.

"Ever since I was born, daddy has been the best father you could ever imagine," the 11-year-old said, sobbing. "And I just wanted to say I love him so much."

It was a rare public moment for Paris-Michael and her brothers, 12-year-old Michael Joseph Jr., and seven-year-old Prince Michael II. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHOTOS: MARK TERRILL-POOL/GETTY IMAGES

Paris-Michael Jackson, left, looks to the sky before taking the microphone and giving an impassioned remembrance of her father Michael Jackson at his memorial. Mariah Carey, right, gave the opening performance at the ceremony with a sweet rendition of the Jackson 5's ballad I'll Be There.

Mourning Michael

Millions tune in to watch final farewell for legendary King of Pop

It was not spectacular, extravagant or bizarre. There were songs and tears but little dancing. Instead, Michael Jackson's memorial was a sombre, spiritual ceremony that reached back for the essence of the man.

Singer, dancer, superstar, humanitarian: That was how some 20,000 people gathered inside the Staples Center arena in Los Angeles yesterday, and untold millions watching around the world, remembered Jackson, whose immense talents almost drowned beneath the spectacle of his life and fame.

Outside the arena, more than 3,000 police officers massed downtown to keep the ticketless at bay. Inside, however, the atmosphere was churchlike, assisted by the enormous video image of a stained glass window, with red-gold clouds blowing past, that was projected behind the stage. Emotions peaked when Rev. Al Sharpton delivered a fiery eulogy highlighting all the barriers Jackson broke and the troubles he faced.

"Every time he got knocked down, he got back up," Sharpton said, and the applauding crowd jumped to its feet.

Sharpton rode the moment. "There wasn't nothing strange about your daddy," he said, now addressing Jackson's three children. "It was strange what your daddy had to deal with!"

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Michael taught us to stand with each other."
Brooke Shields

"He was driven by his hunger to ... constantly top himself."
Rev. Al Sharpton

"Michael was the biggest star on Earth."
Magic Johnson

SunnySide

Follow Metro's SunnySide initiative as we help you find Toronto's good news.

T.O.CivicStrike

The latest news about the Toronto city workers' strike.
- Today
- Charges laid against labour leader, page 4
- Mayor says citizens behind city, page 5

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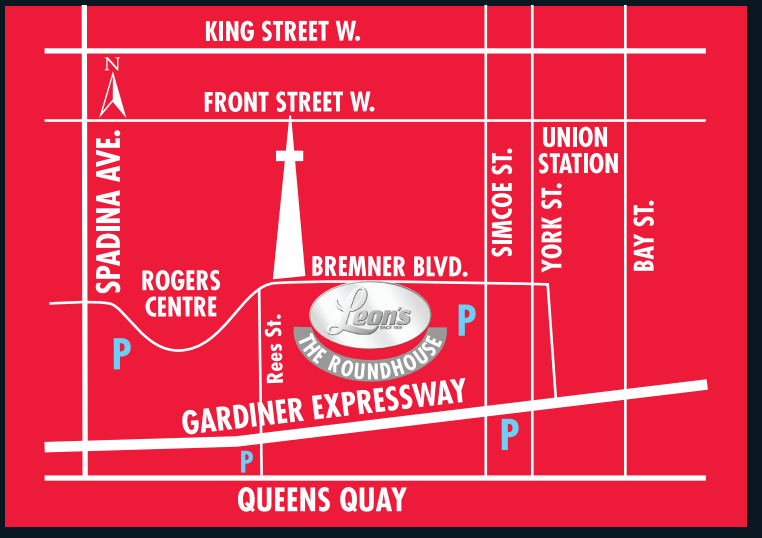

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Kids spitting for science
This summer, Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children has set up a special display at the Ontario Science Centre that involves children and teens spitting into collection tubes. The goal is to help researchers better understand the link between genes and behaviour. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

Rocket fare hike talk premature: Webster

Talk of a transit fare hike next year "is a bit premature," even though the TTC is already projecting a $14 million shortfall this year, about one per cent of its $1.3 billion operating budget, said TTC chief general manager Gary Webster. Revenue accounts for about $10 million of the shortfall, something the TTC can't control given this year's promised fare freeze. Transit officials expected Metropass sales would drop when they took free parking privileges away from pass users, but that hasn't happened, said Webster. As a result, the TTC is collecting less fare per ride as its ridership continues to grow. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Tomorrow's Metro

Food

Check the food section for a sumptuous Peach and Blackberry Cornmeal Cobbler recipe.

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Canadians at home, abroad say goodbye to Michael Jackson at **metronews.ca/entertainment**

Video Ramp ceremony farewell for soldiers killed in chopper crash in Afghanistan at **metronews.ca/canada**

Video N.S. police officer didn't tell others Tasered man was mentally ill, off meds at **metro news.ca/canada**

Lotteries

Ontario Pick 3: 4 0 8 **Ontario Pick 4** : 6 7 0 8
Encore: 0778737
Daily Keno: 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17 18, 23, 24, 31, 32, 35, 41, 46, 66, 67
These results are not official.

ShareYourViews

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Street racing out of character

DVP crash that took the life of two young men 'a bad one,' says cop

A grainy prom photograph encapsulates the bond Adam Bhagiratti and Geetesh Singh shared.

The two, formally dressed and with ear-to-ear grins, are on the dance floor trying to match steps.

"No one was dancing and Adam and Geet went to the floor and started dancing," remembers Jessica Truong, a former classmate. Within minutes, dozens of their classmates joined in.

"That's how they were — always together and always laughing," said Truong yesterday.

Bhagiratti, 21, and Singh, 20, were together when they died Monday evening in what police say was a street race on the Don Valley Parkway. A woman, who was in the car with them, was injured.

"It's one of the more memorable scenes (I've been to). It's a bad one," said Sgt. Tim Burrows of Toronto Police Traffic Services.

Adam Bhagiratti | Geetesh Singh

Their two-seater red convertible was travelling north at a high speed and rolled over a guardrail just south of Eglinton Avenue East. Witnesses told police the red Nissan 300 ZX was in the centre lane racing with a white sports car when the two cars collided and the convertible hurtled into the outer guardrail, tearing off a 12-metre section. The white car sped away. Both men were pronounced dead at the scene around 8:30 p.m.

It is not yet known where or why the race started between the cars.

These are among the questions the two grieving families and friends were asking yesterday.

"No one knows what happened. We are all in shock," said a distraught Truong. "But I knew both of them from high school and I never heard of them (street-racing). It's unlike them."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Inspirational tour should replace jail, says lawyer

SENTENCE Two theatre heavyweights convicted of defrauding investors should be spared jail time, instead repaying their debt to society by sharing with students across Canada the lessons they have learned, their lawyers told court yesterday.

Garth Drabinsky and his business partner Myron Gottlieb were found guilty in March of two counts of fraud and one count of forgery for defrauding investors of millions.

At the sentencing hearing for the pair, lawyers for both men asked for conditional sentences of two years less a day, followed by three years of probation, and 240 hours each of community service.

Drabinsky's lawyer Edward Greenspan recommended that as part of his conditional sentence, his client go on a speaking tour at theatre schools across Canada to discuss the craft of theatre and "the avoidance of unethical conduct."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

THEATRE IMPRESARIO, PG 10

Lawyer argues cops broke law

COURT Two Toronto police officers broke the law when they strip-searched a Crown attorney in 2007, a lawyer told a Superior Court Justice yesterday.

Justice Ian Nordheimer reserved a decision on whether to order the laying of sexual assault charges against the officers who conducted the strip search of Roger Shallow.

"These officers were acting outside their lawful authority," lawyer Donald McLeod said during legal arguments on behalf of Shallow.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MJ Forever in black and white

PAWEL DWULIT/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sabrina Pallotta shows off her tattoo of a Michael Jackson quote during the memorial broadcast of the late pop star at MuchMusic downtown. But 20 minutes into the broadcast, MJ fans were disappointed to find the memorial's coverage was being drowned out by the Honda Pit Challenge show, part of Indy week, going on at Yonge and Dundas Square.

News in brief

GANGS The provincial government has promised $10 million over the next two years, which will ensure the survival of the Toronto police force's TAVIS initiative. The Toronto Anti-Violence Intervention Strategy is a street-level anti-gangs and guns policing unit. This summer, 75 additional officers are patrolling the embattled neighbourhoods of Jane and Finch and Keele and Eglinton.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The Couch Comparison

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Boss charged with assault

A 68-year-old Toronto man is charged with harassing and sexually assaulting employees of his money transactions business. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Paramedic accused of ditching ambulance

T.O.CivicStrike

A paramedic labour leader is facing charges after an ambulance was abandoned outside City Hall in the middle of the night just three hours after the city workers' strike began.

After a two-week police investigation, Glenn Fontaine, ambulance unit chair of Toronto Local 416 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, turned himself in at the downtown 52 Division Monday night, a union spokesperson said.

The ambulance, discovered at 3 a.m. on June 22, had a union placard on its rear wheels and its lights were flashing, police said.

Fontaine, a Barrie resident, has been charged with two counts of taking an auto without consent and two counts of "mischief interfere with property."

He was released from police custody under a promise to appear in court at Old City Hall Aug. 11.

As a paramedic, Fontaine's duties include driving an ambulance.

CUPE has provided Fontaine with a lawyer, said union spokesperson Pat Daley.

"We don't use or encourage members to use the employers' tools of any kind during a strike," said Daley, who was at a Toronto hotel where strike negotiations continued.

> **"We don't use or encourage members to use the employers' tools of any kind during a strike."**
> Pat Daley

Fontaine's unit represents 900 paramedics, but about three-quarters of them remain on the job due to essential service agreements.

The ambulance turned up at City Hall the same week that Fontaine threatened to withdraw paramedics during Gay Pride festivities.

CUPE said at the time it didn't sanction the threat. The Ontario Labour Board, at the urging of the city, subsequently ordered that paramedic service be at full strength during the parade. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

CRASH An OPP officer is dead and another is seriously injured after a crash near London. The police cruiser collided with an asphalt truck around 1:30 p.m. halfway between London and Chatham. Const. Al Hack, 31, from the Elgin County detachment of the OPP, was taken to the health services centre in Newbury where he died. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Man arrested in vandalism
A 27-yr-old has been charged with damaging a dozen cars in Milton. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

'Keep it up,' hears mayor

Says public backs city in strike

T.O.CivicStrike

While voicing concern that low-income children are losing access to summer camps and pools, Mayor David Miller said most people are supporting the city during the workers' strike.

"I can tell you what I'm hearing from Torontonians is: Keep it up."

Miller told reporters his biggest worry is not the growing piles of garbage at temporary dumps at parks and arenas, but children. "The poorest children in the city are losing their summer recreational opportunities. I don't think that's right."

Meanwhile, city councillors who complain they've been left out of the loop as the strike grinds on will finally get a long-sought update on the bargaining this afternoon. But the briefing will occur behind closed doors at council's employee and labour relations committee, which is chaired by Miller, and those in attendance will be sworn to secrecy.

The committee hasn't met since before the strike began June 22, said Coun. Cliff Jenkins.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Council meeting

- Some councillors have urged Miller to call a special council meeting to handle routine business. All meetings have been cancelled since the strike began.
- Miller said city staff needed to attend a full-scale council meeting are too busy trying to cover for striking workers.

QEW **Debris kills driver**

VINCE DALOTTA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A 54-yr-old man from the Dundalk area northwest of Orangeville was killed instantly when a piece of scrap metal hurtled through his windshield as he was eastbound on the Queen Elizabeth Way yesterday afternoon. Police are investigating the source of the debris. It did not come from an overpass as originally thought.

Miller stands by defence of green bin program

Mayor David Miller broke his silence on Toronto's flawed green bin program yesterday.

Well, sort of.

After repeated efforts to interview him by telephone, the Toronto Star caught up to Miller yesterday at an event celebrating the construction of the new — green — Corus Entertainment building on the waterfront.

Miller backed a city official's assurance the green bin program works.

"I stand by that response," Miller said, referring to a statement issued yesterday by the head of Toronto's waste management program.

Asked if he supported, and would co-operate, with the provincial review of municipal organics programs, Miller said, "we always co-operate with the province."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Recession makes shelving nuclear plans easier: Premier

The worldwide recession has made it easier for Ontario to shelve plans for costly new nuclear reactors, admits Premier Dalton McGuinty. The government announced last week it is too expensive to go ahead with the $20-billion expansion of the Darlington nuclear station. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Abdelrazik wants justice

A Montreal man who returned home last month after a six-year exile in Sudan says he wants those behind his ordeal brought to justice. Abousfian Abdelrazik says he wants to clear his name and make sure the same thing doesn't happen to any other Canadian citizen. His name remains on a UN terror watch list, even though neither the RCMP nor CSIS has information linking him to criminal activities. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gay Pride funding provokes backlash

$400,000 Tory contribution from federal tourism program irks social conservatives

Toronto's Gay Pride Week may have seen its last cheque from Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government after this year's $400,000 contribution provoked a backlash from within the ranks of MPs and Conservative supporters.

And Tourism and Small Business Minister Diane Ablonczy appears to have been disciplined for the controversy, losing her power to announce handouts from the $190-million Marquee Tourism Events Program, which funded the event.

Brad Trost, a Saskatchewan Conservative MP, spoke out publicly this week against federal support for the Pride parade, arguing the government caucus and Harper's own office was caught off guard by Ablonczy's announcement of support for the event.

"The pro-life and the pro-family community should know and understand that the tourism funding money that went to the gay Pride parade in Toronto was not government policy, was not supported by — I think it's safe to say by a large majority — of the MPs," Trost said in an interview with LifeSiteNews.com, a website founded by the Campaign Life organization.

Darren Cunningham, a spokesperson for Industry Minister Tory Clement, confirmed yesterday that future funding of Toronto's Pride parade was "under review" but said the reassessment was not directly related to Conservative dissent.

"We're in the midst of doing a review of the program and that review is to ensure that the funding is providing genuine stimulus to the economy and we'll have to look at it in that light," Cunningham said, noting that federal support of the Calgary Stampede and the Vancouver Jazz Festival, for example, are all facing the same review. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

COC drops logo challenge

- The Canadian Olympic Committee has dropped its legal challenge of a logo belonging to a Vancouver chat-line company for gay and bisexual men after concluding that two black circles hovering over a chunky M doesn't resemble Olympic sporting-event symbols. Interactive Male's logo is meant to symbolize two men connecting.

August verdict expected in trial of Ottawa mayor

TIM WIECLAWSKI
Metro Canada

JUSTICE A verdict in Ottawa Mayor Larry O'Brien's influence peddling trial is expected Aug. 12.

After hearing closing arguments, Justice Douglas J. Cunningham will be left to ponder whether the objective evidence supports testimony given by Terry Kilrea during his near-week in the witness box, or the videotaped statement O'Brien made to OPP investigators.

O'Brien is facing two Criminal Code charges stemming from allegations that he offered to help get Kilrea an appointment with the National Parole Board in exchange for Kilrea withdrawing from the 2006 mayoral election.

There are no plans for the mayor to go back to city hall prior to the judge's decision, O'Brien's media adviser Barry McLoughlin said yesterday.

Racially-driven attack stuns B.C. community

DANIEL TAM
for Metro Canada

CRIME Some Courtenay, B.C., residents say their community is still in shock after a fight between three white men and one black man.

A clip was posted on YouTube showing Jay Philips, 38, defending against three attackers Friday.

Racist slurs aimed at Philips can be heard throughout the video.

Dylan Banner, Philips' employer at a landscaping company, said he is "absolutely disgusted."

"He'd do anything for anybody, anywhere and anytime," said Banner, who has known Philips for six years.

"He's just a great guy."

The fight broke out in a parking lot, and at one point one of the attackers had Philips in a headlock on the ground while the other two struck him from above.

Three suspects have been arrested.

Courtenay Mayor Greg Phelps said the people he has talked to are "shocked and absolutely appalled by the attack."

"There's no place in any community for this."

Jackson Final farewell to the King of Pop

VINCE TALOTTA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

People walk by a large mural yesterday of Michael Jackson on the wall of Harlem Restaurant on Richmond Street East in Toronto. Many Canadians tuned in to Jackson's farewell memorial online or on TV. A small group of fans gathered in front of MuchMusic headquarters to watch the proceedings on flatscreen TVs set up outside.

News in brief

HEALTH The Ontario Court of Appeal says the college that oversees doctors has the right to send inspectors into the private clinics of three Toronto physicians to examine their cosmetic surgical practices. The court said yesterday the college has "reasonable and probable grounds to believe that the appellant physicians have committed an act of professional misconduct or are incompetent." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada to agree to global warming target, official says

SUMMIT Canada is set to agree to a tough global warming target at a gathering of world economic leaders in Italy that gets underway today, an official said.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper arrived last night and travelled to the quake-shattered city of L'Aquila, where the summit of the Group of Eight industrialized countries will be held.

Hours before landing in Rome, a senior Harper official signalled a different approach to climate change — one that environmental activists and European governments have argued is critical to curbing widespread environmental damage.

Press secretary Dimitri Soudas suggested Canada would not oppose a declaration that global warming should not be allowed to exceed two degrees from pre-industrial temperature averages.

In Rome, police arrested 38 activists yesterday during clashes at anti-G8 protests. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Women-only pharmacy opens in Vancouver

KRISTEN THOMPSON
Metro Canada

HEALTH Vancouver women now have a place to call their own when it comes to intimate health matters with yesterday's opening of a women-only pharmacy — Lu's: A Pharmacy For Women.

The warm, modern space consists of a fully equipped pharmacy, multimedia resource centre and lounge space for seminars.

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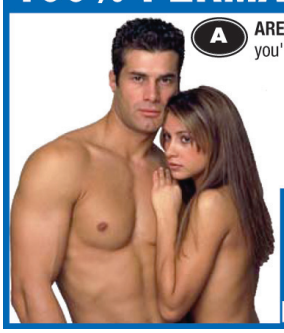

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Court upholds conviction of cocaine kingpin
A U.S. federal appeals court has upheld the conviction and 40-year prison sentence of Colombian drug kingpin Joaquin Mario Valencia-Trujillo. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

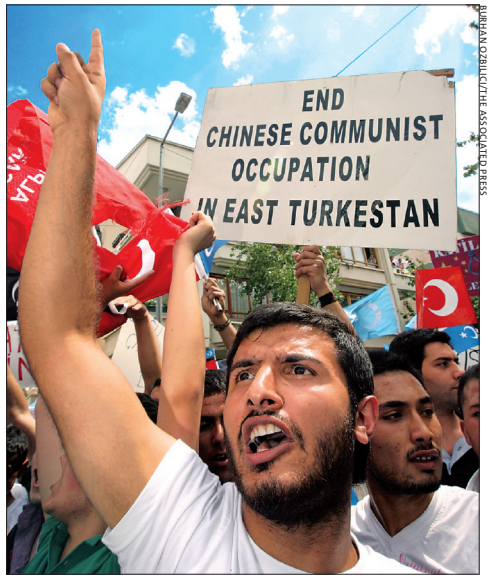
Unrest continues

Muslim Uighur, Han Chinese mobs rampage

Sobbing Muslim women scuffled with riot police, and Chinese men wielding steel pipes, meat cleavers and sticks rampaged through the streets yesterday as ethnic tensions worsened in China's Xinjiang territory, forcing officials to declare a curfew.

The new violence in Xinjiang's capital erupted only a few hours after the city's top officials said the streets in Urumqi were returning to normal following a riot that killed 156 people Sunday. The officials said more than 1,400 suspects had been rounded up since the attacks by Muslim Uighurs against Han Chinese, the ethnic majority.

The chaos returned when hundreds of young Han men seeking revenge began gathering on sidewalks with kitchen knives, clubs, shovels and wooden poles. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



BURHAN OZBILICI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Uighur Turks shout slogans as they try to break through a line of police outside the Chinese embassy in Ankara, Turkey, yesterday.

If only Uighurs were Buddhist

Mona Eltahawy
Global View

Pity the Uighurs — the wrong kind of minority fighting the wrong kind of enemy.

In China's worst ethnic unrest in years, Uighurs took to the streets of Urumqi, capital of Xinjiang, on Sunday. They are believed to have been angered by government handling of a June clash between Han Chinese and Uighur factory workers in southern China, where two Uighurs died, news agencies reported.

The Chinese government quickly blamed exiled separatists, arrested dozens and tried to curb information flow by stifling the Internet. Yesterday, Han Chinese armed with iron bars and machetes went looking for revenge on Uighurs.

But as Reuters pointed out, the underlying cause of the unrest most likely was long-standing economic, cultural and religious grievances that have built up among the Uighurs over decades of tight central rule.

If only the Uighurs were Buddhists like the Tibetans, who just 18 months ago had their own uprising in Tibet's capital Lhasa. We'd be having Free Xinjiang concerts already courtesy of Bjork, Sting, Bono and all those other one-named saviors of the poor and oppressed.

If only the Uighurs were a minority in a country that didn't produce half the goods we use and which wasn't quickly threatening to turn into a superpower. Perhaps then the U.S. State Department would issue more threatening words of its own. Instead, they're Muslim and us Muslims don't get much love these days. And just as importantly, the Uighurs are facing off with the wrong kind of enemy. If the "West" ignores Uighurs because they're not as cuddly as the Tibetans or their leader the Dalai Lama, then where are the Uighurs' fellow Muslims? Uighurs are a Turkic people who are largely Muslim.

Many Muslims pay attention only when the U.S. and Israel are doing the oppressing. China is the wrong kind of enemy. Look at Darfur, where the suffering goes ignored because its victims are black and because those who are creating the misery in Darfur are not Americans or Israelis. We only pay attention when America and Israel behave badly.

Speaking of Darfur, China is one of Sudan's biggest trade and arms partners. Sudanese President Omar Bashir, who last year wanted to try a British teacher for insulting Muslims by naming a class teddy bear "Mohammed," won't be rushing to condemn Chinese oppression of Uighurs.

So perhaps Israel can save the day and invade Xinjiang.

Mona Eltahawy is an award-winning Egyptian-born commentator and public speaker on Arab and Muslim issues. She reported on the Middle East for 10 years before moving to the U.S.

News in brief

COUP Honduras' interim government hinted of a possible solution to the crisis caused by a coup, expressing the first signs of flexibility about the possible return of Manuel Zelaya, who met with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton yesterday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment

Dumping on the 'centre of the universe'

TheWestView

If there's one thing that unites all Canadians, even *les citoyens* of the Nation of Quebec, it's our sea-to-shining-sea disdain for our largest city, Toronto.

I should make it clear this bad attitude is a defence against Toronto's tendency to fancy itself as the centre of the known universe (CKU), its boundaries Cottage Country to the north, Mississauga to the west, Scarberia to the east and New York to the south.

Oh, and there's an Ottawa bureau.

There was a time I thought Toronto was merely misunderstood, but that was until I lived and worked in the CKU for our "national" broadcaster, which had a bad case of Toronto-itis, no matter how it pretended to behave otherwise.

I soon learned all the important news came from Toronto, while the rest of the country was a vast and chilly hinterland, good for soft features about cute animals and farmers, out standing in their fields, suffering.

Of course, Toronto's myopia infuriates the rest of us 30 million Canadians, so we make remorseless fun of its endless pretensions, especially its hockey team, which has been wilting on the tree since 1967, the last time the Leafs won the Stanley Cup and the last time there were six teams in the NHL.

This fact alone is usually enough to haunt the nightmares of Torontonians, but now they have a real nightmare to contend with. We're talking trash, Toronto trash in particular, thanks to a civic workers' strike that's gone on for two weeks and continues with no end in sight.

Garbage is being temporarily dumped at various locations around town, including Christie Pits, which is Toronto's idea of a park. Anyone from out of town might not be able to tell the difference, but believe me, Torontonians can and the trash is driving them nuts. Of course, that's all they can talk about; forget the rest of us and our cute animals.

If you've ever spent a summer in Toronto, you'll never forget that toxic soup of heat, humidity and the aroma of millions of bags of trash piled up on the curb on pickup day, seeping sludge. Now it's like that 24/7. Only worse. You can smell it all the way to Vancouver, past the noses of the suffering farmers, as if they didn't have enough to worry about.

Canada's self-proclaimed "national" paper, the Globe and Mail, likes to call Vancouver's Downtown Eastside Canada's Slum, based on some patronizing notion. We should return the favour and adopt Toronto and its trash for the duration of the strike so our greatest city does not feel abandoned in its hour of need.

Tonight on the National with Peter Mansbridge: Toronto: Canada's Dump.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

Word on the street: In these tough economic times, should unions be making more concessions?

Luc Letendre
age 36, Toronto

A: It really is based on votes of members, not unions. The unions just represent the members.

Trisha De Coeur
age 33, Toronto

A: You've got to appreciate what they're standing for and what they're protecting.

Muhammad Butt
age 29, Toronto

A: Yes ... They should be a little bit flexible so the economy can stabilize.

Lucie Desjardins
age 35, Ottawa

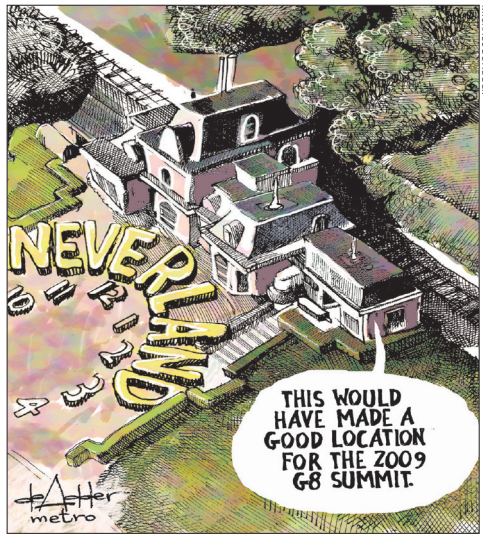
A: Yes. I work for a company where we haven't had a pay raise in years and benefits are not getting better.

Frank Laba
age 55, Halifax

A: They should probably do their best not to, but in some cases if they don't they may not have a job to return to.

Vicki McCann
age n/a, Vancouver

A: That's very case specific. You'd have to take each individual case into account and apply common sense.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

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Airline fined over cargo price fixing
Qantas was fined $155,000, CBC News Online reports, after it pleaded guilty to participating in a cartel that fixed the price of air cargo, the Competition Bureau said. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Bankruptcies jump by 31%

Bankruptcies in Canada continued to soar in May versus year-earlier levels as consumers succumbed to debt loads and job losses, but the tally improved modestly from April.

Results released yesterday by the Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy Canada showed a total of 10,364 bankruptcies registered in May, up 31 per cent from May of last year. Last month's total fell nearly 10 per cent below April's 11,465 bankruptcies.

Industry experts were doubtful that May marked a turning point in a string of soaring bankruptcies in recent months.

"I'm not confident that it's the light at the end of the tunnel," said Andy Fisher, a bankruptcy trustee with A. Farber & Partners, which has locations around the GTA and Ontario. "June was probably the busiest month we've ever had," catering to debt-swamped Canadians being chased by creditors, he said.

Amid widespread job losses and reduced incomes "struggling people see credit as a way to get by," he said. "Attitudes have changed. It's not a stigma to have credit."

But many who have embraced credit clearly can't keep up. The May figures include 9,900 consumer bankruptcies, up about 34 per cent from a year earlier.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

In brief

MAGNA A U.S. judge agreed yesterday to postpone a hearing on a hedge fund's request for the appointment of an examiner in horse track owner Magna Entertainment's bankruptcy case. At the request of attorneys, a hearing originally scheduled for yesterday on the request by Greenlight Capital Offshore Partners was postponed until Aug. 18.

NETWORK Pharmacy chain operator The Jean Coutu Group said yesterday it plans to expand its Quebec network by one-third to 400 stores within five to seven years, despite increased competition. Over its 40-year history, Jean Coutu has grown to become the leading pharmacy chain in Quebec. It fills more than 63 million prescriptions annually and its sales per square foot lead the industry. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Cable TV companies vow to fight fee-for-carriage plan

CABLE Canada's cable operators promise they will put up a fight for their customers as a new local television funding plan from the CRTC threatens to send monthly cable bills higher for Canadian TV watchers.

Objections from the country's cable operators and consumer groups grew stronger yesterday as more companies criticized the national regulators' plan to support fee-for-carriage that allows local TV broadcasters to charge cable companies for carrying their signals. In turn, the cable operators could pass on those charges to consumers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Hate banking fees? Complain in 140 characters or less

ING Direct has launched a new service called Fee Tweeter, available at FeeTweeter.fairfees.ca or through the Twitter stream at www.twitter.com/FeeTweeter that allows Canadians fed up with banking fees to tweet about their gripes and keep track of how much they are actually spending. METRO NEWS SERVICES

The theatre impresario and the pea

InBusiness

Charles Davies

If former Livent head Garth Drabinsky ends up in jail, I for one will chip in on a decent mattress for him. What else could you do after hearing his lawyer Edward Greenspan argue on day one of Drabinsky's sentencing hearing that the former impresario is unlikely to find a prison mattress approximating the one he uses at home?

News Analysis

Clearly, he needs a good sleeping surface, firm but with a bit of give. As Greenspan noted, Drabinsky suffers from an array of infirmities, including arthritis, bursitis and back spasms. Carrying a tray of food, such as you might have to do in a prison cafeteria, would not be possible. Walking up stairs and navigating slippery surfaces would be a great hardship; indeed, walking any distance at all would be problematic.

Yet such is Drabinsky's willingness to make amends for his fraud and forgery conviction that Greenspan, as part of a conditional sentencing arrangement, would have him embark on an exhausting speaking tour of Canada's theatre schools. His topic? The avoidance of unethical conduct, naturally.

Such was the outpouring of tribute and support at the hearing for Drabinsky and his co-convicted business partner Myron Gottlieb, it's hard to imagine either of them harbouring so much as a larcenous thought. Drabinsky in particular was described as roughly an amalgam of the legendary Irving Thalberg and Mother Teresa. There were tributes from some of Canada's business greats, including Isadore Sharp, the founder of Four Seasons Hotels, Seymour Schulich, the financial expert and philanthropist, and Douglas Bassett, the former broadcasting executive. Christopher Plummer, suitably theatrical, added his "voice in the wilderness" to describe Drabinsky's loyalty and generosity as well as his invention, achievements and optimism. And architect Moshe Safdie noted Drabinsky "was a creative force in everything he touched."

"Sadly, this last point is correct in ways (Moshe) Safdie didn't imply."

Sadly, this last point is correct in ways that Safdie didn't imply. When Drabinsky and Gottlieb were found guilty of fraud and forgery back in March Madam Justice Mary Lou Benotto noted the major contributions the two had made to theatre and the arts, but she also focused on the essence of their 62-day trial. The two were guilty of using an accounting system at Livent that systematically misrepresented results over a five-year period, costing investors an estimated $500 million. That's a significant fraud, and while there's no need for a Madoffian punishment of a century plus, house arrest isn't sufficient. Jail time, as uncomfortable as it may be, is in order.

Charles Davies is a veteran business writer and editor who has worked for news organizations and publications including Business Week, Canadian Business, Report On Business magazine, Reuters and Financial Post.

Plastic at a premium

CHARGE IT Paying with plastic could get a whole lot more complicated if Ottawa permits retailers to adopt some of the strategies recommended in a Senate committee report on the credit and debit card industries.

Consumers could be faced with paying an extra fee at the cash register when they use plastic, and also be told they can't use certain cards, especially those that come with higher rewards, but cost the merchant more to accept, the report by the Senate committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce said.

It's unclear whether Ottawa will adopt the committee's recommendations. The federal finance ministry has said it's studying the report and awaiting the findings of a similar one from a House of Commons joint committee.

But some countries, notably Australia, have already taken such steps in response to growing complaints from merchants and other businesses about the rising rates and fees they pay to accept credit cards as a form of payment.

"The merchants and … businesses are not asking for a bailout. They're only asking for fairness," Senator Pierrette Ringuette said when asked why the committee she spearheaded endorsed the merchants' demands.

A coalition of retailers told the committee such rates are soaring out of control now cost an estimated $4.5 billion a year, based on an average of 2 per cent of the value of all purchases, an amount that is paid indirectly by consumers in the price of the goods and services. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

MINING The federal government worries its embassy in Mexico City is a hot spot for demonstrations against Canadian mining companies. Non-governmental organizations, local landowners and Mexican politicians are taking their gripes to the embassy's doorstep, says an internal briefing note prepared by Natural Resources Canada. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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CAW says Ford wants same general union concessions

MANUFACTURING The Canadian Auto Workers says Ford has asked the union to match recent concession-filled labour deals with General Motors and Chrysler so the company can remain competitive.

CAW negotiator Mike Vince says the union met with Ford management last night and the company outlined its case for why the automaker needs a new contract with its workers.

Vince says the company argued it needs a new contract so it can compete with GM and Chrysler in Canada as well as with its own U.S. operations.

And CAW economist Jim Stanford says Ford is looking for the same general concessions CAW workers gave to the other companies.

Although the CAW's current contract with Ford doesn't expire until 2011, Ford says new labour agreements with the other American automakers have put it at a disadvantage.

Contract

- Ford's current contract with their unionized workers doesn't expire until 2011.

The CAW says it will now decide whether it will agree to reopen contract negotiations.

Ford was the only one of the so-called Detroit Three carmakers not to get any U.S. or Canadian government financial help to stay alive and restructure. As a condition of that aid, GM and Chrysler were forced to negotiate new deals with their unions in Canada and the U.S. THE CANADIAN PRESS

La Russa drops Twitter suit
St. Louis Cardinals manager Tony La Russa has quietly dropped his lawsuit against the social networking site Twitter Inc. A one-paragraph statement filed June 26 with the U.S. District Court in San Francisco says La Russa had dropped all claims — and that Twitter did not compensate him in exchange. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Sakic ready to retire: Report

After 20 NHL seasons, Colorado Avalanche forward Joe Sakic, left, is reportedly ready to hang up his skates. The team has scheduled a press conference tomorrow at which he is expected to make his announcement. Sakic played his entire career for the franchise and won two Stanley Cups there. In 1,378 games, Sakic posted 625 goals and 1,016 assists for 1,641 points, good for eighth on the NHL's all-time point leaders list. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: CHRIS.CLEMENTS@METRONEWS.CA

Burke signs the Monster

Swedish goalie Gustavsson joins Leafs, but GM says Toskala's job is safe

Jonas Gustavsson signed a one-year deal with the Toronto Maple Leafs yesterday, but GM Brian Burke isn't about to hand the coveted free-agent goaltender a starting job.

Toronto beat out Dallas, San Jose and Colorado, among others, to secure the services of the 24-year-old from Danderyd, Sweden. But Burke said Vesa Toskala remains the Leafs' starter and Gustavsson will have to beat out the veteran Finn to secure the No. 1 position.

"He's not coming in trying to unseat a guy who has been here a long time, has a long-term contract and has had a lot of success," Burke said. "That being said, we were very frank with Jonas that we feel Vesa is going to have a big-time, bounce-back year now that he's healthy.

"Don't think you're going to walk in here and knock this kid out of the net. You're going to have to do something to do that."

MARTIN ROSE/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

Jonas Gustavsson, shown here playing for Sweden in this year's IIHF World Ice Hockey Championship, signed with the Maple Leafs yesterday.

Toskala appeared in 53 games last season with Toronto, compiling a 22-17 record. He posted a 3.26 goals-against average with one shutout and .891 save percentage.

But he underwent season-ending hip surgery in March and missed Toronto's final 18 regular-season games. Toskala is entering the final year of his contract with the Leafs and is slated to earn $4 million US.

At worst, Burke figures the six-foot-three, 192-pound Gustavsson will serve as Toronto's backup goaltender and a solid insurance policy should Toskala suffer injury again.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Blue-collar blue-line taking shape in Toronto

John Grigg
thehockeynews.com

Last season the Maple Leafs were easily the NHL's worst defensive team, surrendering 3.49 goals-against per contest. The Buds managed to stay competitive-ish by potting 2.98 goals of their own each game, good for 10th in the league, but GM Brian Burke has obviously seen enough.

In true Howard Beale fashion, Burke has gone about moulding a D-corps with the "proper levels of pugnacity, testosterone, truculence and belligerence," as he described the vision he had for the Leafs upon his arrival in Toronto this past November.

With the signing of former Duck Francois Beauchemin Monday, the Leafs now have nine defencemen under NHL contract, six of whom are more expensive towards the cap than the Leafs' three most pricey forwards. Something's got to give (see: Kaberle, Tomas), but Burke is doing the right thing, loading up on the back end, where the affordable free agent talent has been this summer.

Burke's plan seems to be working. He's managed to lure one of the most sought-after UFA defenders out there in Mike Komisarek and as good a second-tier guy as the market offered in Beauchemin.

The Leafs were also the big winners in the Jonas Gustavsson sweepstakes.

Gustavsson chose the Leafs over others despite the team's poor defensive record in recent seasons, the fact they already have an incumbent No. 1 netminder, Vesa Toskala, and the likelihood Toronto will again be watching from the sidelines when the NHL's spring tourney begins next April.

Why? Well, surely money was a factor, although $900,000 seems like a real bargain.

But part of the reason must be the fact the Leafs will be a much harder team to play against this season compared to the recent past. And with significant money still remaining under the cap and a big chip to play in perennial All-Star Game participant Tomas Kaberle, it's likely the Leafs will only get better — if not this season, then in the very near future.

Beginning with a blue-collar, lunch-pail group on the blue-line is a good way to start.

The Hockey News
thn.com

Sports in brief

SOCCER Canada claimed sole possession of first place in Group A and a berth in the next round of the Gold Cup last night with its 1-0 win over El Salvador. Ali Gerba's goal in the 32nd minute stood as the winner at Crew Stadium in Columbus, Ohio. Canada's final game of the group stage is Friday against Costa Rica.

FORMULA ONE Canada's Jacques Villeneuve wants to return to Formula One as part of the expanded series from 2010. The 1997 world champion from Iberville, Que., last raced in F1 in 2006, pulling out after 12 rounds following his exit from BMW Sauber. The 38-year-old has reportedly spoken to unnamed team principals about the possibility of a seat.

TOUR DE FRANCE Lance Armstrong closed to within a second of the overall lead at the Tour de France after his Astana team won yesterday's team time trial. Fabian Cancellara, a Swiss rider with the Saxo Bank team, retained the yellow jersey after the 39-kilometre ride in and around Montpellier.

SETTLEMENT A baseball fan who says he was kicked out of a Yankees game because he left his seat during God Bless America has settled a lawsuit against New York City and the team. The city did not admit liability and will give Bradford Campeau-Laurion of Queens about $10,000.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Burrell homer sinks Jays in 11th

MLB RESULTS

Blue Jays 1 **Rays** 3 (11 ings)

AT

BASEBALL Struggling slugger Pat Burrell picked an ideal time to pull out of a horrendous slump, hitting a two-run homer in the 11th inning to give the Tampa Bay Rays a 3-1 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays last night.

The AL champions stopped a four-game losing streak that included three losses to rookie pitchers, but hardly pulled out of an offensive funk — managing just two hits in six innings against Marc Rzepczynski in the 23-year-old lefty's major league debut.

The Rays finished with four hits overall, two after the fourth inning, when Rzepczynski walked three, including Gabe Kapler with the bases loaded, to fall behind 1-0.

Scott Rolen tied it in the eighth with a run-scoring single that extended his career-best hitting streak to 24 games.

Burrell, mired in a 4-for-34 slump, hit his fourth homer of the season, connecting off Brandon League (1-4).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Metro Workology exclusive: Backstage Pass

In the coming weeks Metro's Workology section will be focusing on the part of the entertainment industry that you DON'T see. Backstage Pass will focus on the careers behind the camera and the curtain. So be sure to read Workology and Metronews.ca/work every day.

Workology

McMaster bookstore the best

Members of the Canadian Booksellers Association have named McMaster University's bookstore, Titles, the best campus bookstore in the country. The store, which serves students, academics and general adult readers from the campus and broader community, reports more than $24 million in annual sales, and stocks about 40,000 titles. McMaster edged out several nominees, including the Universities of Alberta and Victoria. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Huge reach

• More than 18,000 Canadian artists have uploaded more than 80,000 songs to CBC's Radio 3's website, which is much more than just a traditional online representation of a radio station.

–BRIAN COULTON

The (radio) voice of the next generation

Backstage Pass

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

It prides itself on "breaking new sound", it's Canada's only station dedicated to independent Canadian music and it can be heard on two different formats — online and satellite. But Steve Pratt says CBC Radio 3 isn't really a radio station at all.

"I know that sounds odd," says Pratt, the station's Vancouver-based director and director of digital programming for all of CBC Radio. "It's more like we try to be experts and help people discover new Canadian music. It doesn't really matter whether it's radio, video, blogging or social networking."

Instead, Pratt calls Radio 3 an "ecosystem" because its makeup is like a living, breathing, user-generated community — considering its huge user-generated content.

"A lot of the tools on the website are designed to help people discover and get to know artists and then be able to share stuff they like with their own social networks," says Pratt. That's reflected in the station's frequent use of blogs (each show features a unique blog-a-day by its host, inviting listeners to join the conversation), Twitter and personalized artist pages, which enable audiences to participate with, rather than simply consume, the station's outputs.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Steve Pratt is the director of digital programming for all of CBC Radio.

"We feel like we're up to our elbows in helping to figure out what the media experience is going to be for the next generation, which is cool."
Steve Pratt

And if Radio 3 is an ecosystem, Pratt is its overseeing organism. He's responsible for strategizing how best to synergize the station's distribution platforms, determining where to publish content (and what content should be published) and figuring out how Radio 3 can best raise awareness of new Canadian music.

While Pratt says he's not a poster child for a long radio career leading up to a certain point, he thinks the variety of genres and mediums he's bounced around between — including stints in entertainment journalism, local news, children's and comedy programming and at MuchMusic — has been more valuable than a lengthy radio tenure.

"The important thing is understanding how to reach audiences and tell stories that are specific to the medium that you're using."

But as mediums are changing so significantly in this digital age, what's most important to Pratt is also what he finds most challenging.

"No one has figured out what the future is going to be when a large chunk of that audience migrates away from AM/FM or conventional television, or how many of them are going to migrate over, or how they're going to make money or survive in a digital universe," he says.

"We feel like we're up to our elbows in helping to figure out what the media experience is going to be for the next generation, which is cool."

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Trend in U.S. colleges experimenting with 'local' online courses
To compete with for-profit online colleges, a number of commuter-serving urban institutions in the U.S. are "going local" with online or blended programs targeting working adults in their own regions. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Class actions on the rise, but are they a mistake?

WorkplaceLaw

"Greatness lies not in being strong, but in the right use of strength."
–HENRY WARD BEECHER

It's workplace law's newest, and biggest, phenomenon: Lawyers specializing in class action lawsuits, joining together groups of employees with similar legal claims. However, in light of last week's Ontario court decision that dismissed a class-action lawsuit filed against CIBC alleging that the bank failed to pay overtime to its customer service staff, class action lawyers may no longer be sharpening their pens.

For Canadian employees with claims for overtime, unpaid wages or pensions, joining a class action lawsuit had, until now, made sense. Proceeding individually is neither cost-effective nor does it garner the same attention from your employer as a multimillion-dollar lawsuit on behalf of thousands of employees. With the potential of recovering seven-figure damage awards and moving the case's coverage from this column to the front page of the news, the temptation to sue as a group is difficult to resist. But given the CIBC decision, are employees' interests being subverted?

In the CIBC case, Justice Joan Lax ruled that the individual claims in the case lacked commonality, which is essential to certifying class action lawsuits. "Proceeding as a class action will not avoid duplication of fact-finding and legal analysis" and for this reason, the individual claims should be decided on a case-by-case basis, not in a group setting, the court ruled.

As a result, these employees must turn to provincial labour tribunals or the courts and bring their claims on an individual basis, if they still can — and if they still care to.

And it's not just claims for unpaid overtime that shouldn't necessarily be brought as class actions. With large-scale downsizing and mass layoffs, class action lawyers have also taken aim at group wrongful dismissal claims. But not so fast. If a group claim for unpaid overtime doesn't have enough commonality to gain certification, then group wrongful dismissal claims will surely be dismissed. In wrongful dismissal lawsuits, the individual facts of each ex-employee's claim will ultimately determine its merit. Therefore, a class proceeding may be a mass mistake.

As well, in dismissal cases where the plaintiffs are unemployed, there is a need for speedy settlements or quick summary judgments. Class actions linger for years. Few gain certification; fewer prevail.

In a decision that was released last month, I represented five employees who sued their ex-employer for wrongful dismissal. It was not a class action suit, but I advanced their claims as a group. Within 14 months from the date that my clients were fired, they were awarded one of the largest group wrongful dismissal judgments in Canadian history.

At the mediation for this case, the mediator, one of the best known in Ontario, remarked that my clients were smarter to fight as a group rather than to stand alone. "There is strength in numbers," he argued, while attempting to assure us that the employer could not ignore five simultaneous claims. He was correct. If employees can sue individually but proceed as a group, what incentive do they have to join a class action?

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer focusing on the law of dismissal; dan@canadaemploymentlawyer.com.

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free smart service
smart Canada recently announced that free scheduled maintenance will now be included on every new smart. The coverage runs for three years or 54,000 km, whichever comes first. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Metro Drive

Bag the Benz

A series of handbags made from seatbelts will now be offered through Mercedes-Benz dealerships in Canada, made by Harveys Original Seatbeltbags and featuring the auto brand's logo. Prices for the bags range from $92.50 to $179.50. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Hip to be Nissan Cube

Trendy model aims to be 'home on wheels' for young drivers

LORNE DRURY
for Metro Canada

This third-generation Nissan Cube is now available across Canada.

It's been said many times before that everything old is new again in the automotive world.

Take Nissan's new Cube compact wagon.

Although it's a newcomer to the North American stage for 2009 after making its debut in Japan way back in 1998, the Cube's squared-off design is really not all that new.

Think back to the early days of the automobile and cars that we remember like the Ford Model A and Model T. Both had that boxy, squared-off look that was common with automobiles of the day.

Fast forward to 2009 and the Nissan Cube enters a marketplace already featuring the Kia Soul and the Honda Element with similar "box on wheels" type designs in a marketplace that for years has been dominated by vehicles with curvy, flowing lines.

The Cube has what Nissan calls a "Jacuzzi lounge" interior layout with sofa-style seats and a suede-like fabric.

Nissan is hoping the Cube resonates with a younger audience thanks to its, well, Cube-like design.

Because of its boxy, unique design, the Cube is both functional and distinctive in an entry-level segment made up largely of look-alike vehicles.

And to allow customers to further personalize their Cubes, a variety of accessories are being offered right from launch time rather than a few months down the road as usually happens with a new model.

Among the accessories is a funky interior accent illumination package that allows the driver to select from 20 different colours or have the colours cycle automatically. More than 40 other "personalization options" are available including an under-body package featuring spoilers and body cladding.

Already available at dealerships in Canada, the Cube is offered in two trim levels. Both offer the same 122 hp 1.8-litre four-cylinder engine, starting at $16,998 for a six-speed manual and $18,298 with a continuously variable (CVT) automatic transmission.

The key to the Cube's success, Nissan believes, is that it is affordable, economical and functional, yet at the same time fashionable.

The interior can be seen as a "home away from home" or a room on wheels for the digital generation that is always connected, thus the optional technology package not usually offered in entry-level vehicles. Despite its compact size on the outside, the Cube is surprisingly roomy inside with its high roofline and wide stance. There is seating for five and the headliner has an unusual "water drop" ripple effect.

The Cube is a vehicle ideally suited to city driving, with a short turning circle (10 m or 32.8 ft), a short hood that makes it easier to park in tight situations and good rear visibility. On the highway at cruising speed, the cabin is fairly quiet and comfortable.

STEVE HYMAN/FOR METRO CANADA

Cube giveaway

- Nissan Canada recently awarded the Cube to 50 Canadians for the creativity displayed through Hypercube, the nationwide, four-month-long social media campaign. The winners were announced at events simulcast in Toronto (pictured), Montreal and Vancouver. The Hypercube community established over the past few months will continue beyond the event as winners blog about their life with the Cube for the next year.

2009 Nissan Cube

Type: Compact entry-level wagon
Price: $16,998-$21,498
Engine: 1.8-litre 16-valve DOHC four-cylinder engine (122 hp, 127 lb/ft) with six-speed manual transmission optional CVT automatic

Highlights

- Ideal for urban driving
- Roomy interior
- Fashionable

Making a case for the all-Canadian car

AutoPilot
Michael Goetz
metronews.ca/autopilot

When it comes to building cars, Canada does all right. In terms of worldwide annual production, we rank about ninth or 10th.

The quality is also there; Canadian plants of General Motors, Ford and Chrysler routinely score higher in quality indices than their American counterparts; Toyota and Honda continue to view Canada as a great place to establish and expand manufacturing facilities.

Consider also that our auto parts industry is arguably the equal of any in the world. Magna continues to assert itself as one of the world's top suppliers. It already builds complete vehicles for customers in Europe, and is poised to buy GM's European unit of Opel.

And Canada has always been a player. We were there at the very inception of automobile manufacturing, way back there in the early years of the last century, when factory smoke stacks were considered things of beauty, and businessmen wore top hats, even to bed.

"Somebody's got to do cold weather testing, right? Who is going to make sure batteries crank over at 50 below if not us?"

In those days there were many Canadian automotive brands — McLaughlin, Russell, Brooks Steam, Redpath, Galt, etc. They obviously all died off, with the famous exception of McLaughlin, which got swallowed by GM.

So here we are with no Canadian car brands so far, and no car that says "Canada" the way Jaguar says England, Cadillac says America, Volvo says Sweden, Mercedes-Benz says Germany, Maserati says Italy, or Lada says Russia.

I guess we just have to be happy for what we do contribute to the world in terms of automotive production and technology, and not get too hung up about our current "branch plant" status.

I mean somebody's got to do cold weather testing, right? Who is going to make sure batteries crank over at 50 below if not us?

But maybe it's better that we don't have a brand that totally embodies Canada, because the one I'm picturing at the moment is kind of scary.

The engine was designed and built in central Canada, but it's way too conservative for the racy styling and interior, which came from Quebec. The cargo area, the responsibility of Western Canada, can't hold anything, because they've gone and installed another engine back there, and it's more powerful than the Central Canada one, which is no longer connected to anything. The seats aren't covered because they're the responsibility of the Maritimes. They want to do it in cod skin, but need to wait for the cod stocks to bounce back before getting started.

And just to make sure everyone would know this is a Canadian car, it would have a little Canadian flag sewn on the back fender.

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for more than 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.

Solar car champs unveil new model

Delft University's Nuon Solar Team, which has won the World Solar Challenge four times in a row, has unveiled its newest car, Nuna 5. The Dutch team will use the car to win the race for the fifth time. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Global News Hour co-anchor Anne-Marie Mediwake

Ready for auto upgrade

MyDrive

Heather Buchan

metronews.ca/mydrive

Anne-Marie Mediwake is in the midst of car shopping. Since giving birth to triplets two years ago, the affable co-anchor of Global's News Hour has been driving a 10-year-old silver Dodge Caravan "with a dent on one side and rust on the other.

"When we found out we were having triplets, we realized we were going to need a bigger vehicle," explains the Sri Lankan-born beauty. At the time, she and her husband, Global News reporter Darryl Konynenbelt, owned an Acura and a Nissan Maxima.

But with the onslaught of expenses, from hospital bills to everyday items for not one, but three new babies, the couple couldn't buy a new car. So they sold their Acura to Mediwake's sister for a dollar and bought her Dodge minivan for the same amount.

Now that the triplets, Annabel, Elizabeth and Maxim, have just turned two, Mediwake says they're ready for a new car. "In my fantasy, I would like a vintage Bentley with a driver," she confesses.

In reality, she and Konynenbelt are weighing two options. "Plan A is to buy a used Honda Odyssey and a used Volvo Wagon. That way, I can use the Volvo if I need to cart around the kids," she explains.

"In my fantasy, I would like a vintage Bentley with a driver."
News anchor Anne-Marie Mediwake

"Plan B is to take the best of both and get a Honda Pilot"

Commuting is part of Mediwake's everyday life. Each afternoon she drives from her Oakville home to Global's studios in North York for her 6 p.m. newscast. But she no longer takes the fast lane. "I used to speed a lot," she says. "Now I have three people that are relying on me, so why take risks."

Despite her excitement over a new car, she confesses that it will be sad to let their 2004 Nissan go. It's what they drove each of their bundles of joy home in, one-by-one, from the hospital.

But with three growing girls, the time to upgrade in size and safety has come.

Whatever they end up buying, one thing's certain: the car will be loaded with car seats, toys, equipment and one happy family.

Heather Buchan is a Toronto-based journalist who has worked at several magazines, including Hello! Canada, where she cut her teeth in the world of celebrities.

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Where streets have no name

EMMA E. FORREST
Metro World News

Forget flying, the best way to see a country is to drive it. When you travel by plane you are dropped into your destination without any geographical context.

Why would you stay in a hotel for a week when you can set your own agenda, and find adventure in a car? Get in the car and you can get to see the place in detail, stop off spontaneously at interesting places, and avoid the hassle of unpacking at every destination.

But some of you don't need convincing. If you love driving then you'll already be planning the route for your summer road trip. There are plenty of great places to drive in Canada. But here are my favourites from Europe and the United States:

South Tyrol

Fly into Venice and you cruise towards the mountains of South Tyrol, where you'll find open, empty roads leading you to beautiful scenery of green mountains punctuated by picture-box villages. A great place for foodies; thanks to its location, South Tyrol offers a "best of" of Italian and German gastronomy.

Driving through the lush mountains of Scotland is a road tripper's dream come true.

Highlands of Scotland

You won't believe the wild landscapes of the glens of the Scottish Highlands until you see them. Start in Glasgow and cruise between the lochs in the Trossachs National Park, then take off through Glencoe towards Ben Nevis, or fly into Inverness for an even more dramatic route. The further north you drive, the wilder the scenery, the fewer cars — and other signs of life — you'll see. But one thing stays consistent, the perfect quality of the roads. Check for routes at visitscotland.com/guide/inspirational/itineraries.

Amalfi Coast

For a romantic road trip, cruise between the stunning towns that cling to the cliffs of the Amalfi coastline along the bay of Naples. The nail-bitingly-high, winding coastal road offers thrilling views and challenging drives as the locals are foolhardy on those scary corners.

West Coast of America

A good road trip involves breathtaking landscapes and surprising variety, and they don't come better than this.

Drive up the West Coast of America and you'll take in the long empty roads, Joshua trees and the barren landscapes of Arizona, the staggering vision of the Grand Canyon, the glamour and glitz of Las Vegas, the hectic cruising lifestyle in Los Angeles and Hollywood, the lush greenery of the Napa Valley, the famous rolling roads of San Francisco up through the Redwood forests to hip city of Seattle and the refreshing mountains of Oregon. Phew!

Mobile mania
In recent months, use of travel-related handheld applications by business travellers has skyrocketed. Such applications now include flight status updates, itinerary management and hotel-booking tools. BTONLINE.COM

Travel

New life for the Neues Museum

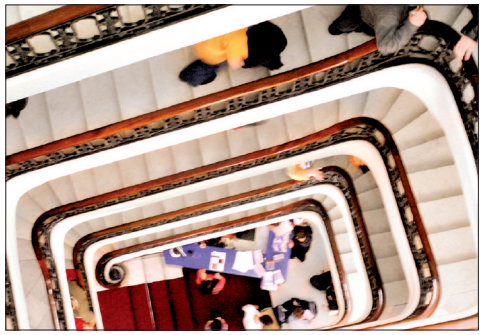
After more than 60 years in ruins, the Neues Museum on Berlin's Museum Island will re-open its doors on Oct. 16. It will house Egyptian, pre- and early history and classical antiquities collections, and feature the bust of Egyptian Queen Nefertiti, right, who was described as "the world's most beautiful woman. The re-opening also marks the first time in over 70 years that all five museums on the island will be open to the public. METRO NEWS SERVICES

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

5 Hostels with hipster flair

ROMINA McGUINNESS
Metro World News

Think "hostel" and you picture bohemian backpackers and students on a shoestring budget crammed into dorms, drinking wine out of the bottle and eating cheese sandwiches.



Above, a dorm room and staircase at Barcelona's Centric Point hostel, where the guest amenities include Wii and satellite television.

Think again — with travel costs rocketing and budgets dwindling, cheap but hip hostels are becoming increasingly popular. Sure, you might still have to share just about everything from your room to the kitchen, but when you have your own iMac, home-cooked meals and free Kiehl's beauty products it doesn't seem so bad. Here is a selection of five of the world's hippest hostels, where luxury doesn't come at a price.

Left, the cellar bar at Miss Sophies, a Prague hostel that looks more like a boutique hotel. Right, Bangkok hostel Imm Eco Chiang Mai.

Cheap shelter

Mama Shelter, Paris: In Paris' bohemian 20th arrondissement, Mama Shelter is the ugly-duckling-turned-swan of the block. Owned by Serge Trigano of Club Med, with interiors by Philippe Starck, this former multi-storey car park is as trendy and romantic as it is cheap.

Walls are adorned with gritty poetry and graffiti whilst staff are armed with grease pencils to write down their thoughts across mirrors and floors.

Rooms have iMacs and electronic screens run a continuous newsfeed in the counter at the communal bar so you can simultaneously surf the net and eat. Craving a midnight snack?

Switch on your nightlight (an illuminated Halloween mask) and head to the kitchen pantry stacked with Nutella chocolate spread and bread. Kiehl's beauty products in the bathroom come in handy. Prices per night from about $150 for single rooms and about $170 for double rooms; mamashelter.com.

Royal and retro

Living Lounge Hostel, Lisbon: This hostel feels more like a quirky artist's studio in Baixa than a backpackers pad. Touches of baroque influence the decoration, with heavy gilt frames, scarlet walls and a chandelier made from crystal shot glasses.

Seventeen artists helped with the decoration; one dorm by graffiti artist Dirty Cop evokes author Edgar Allan Poe with its eerie mural of black trees.

Natural Touch

Imm Eco Chiang Mai, Bangkok: Set in a lush tropical garden close to the buzzing Chiang Mai city, Imm Eco focuses on being green and natural. The interiors burst with colour — lime greens and fuchsia against wooden floors and the airy open-plan spaces double as yoga studios. The outdoor swimming pool is perfect for cooling down in. Dorms sleep up to 12 people, great for those on a shoestring budget, but individual rooms are available.

The restaurant, HiHi@Barn, is all thatched wood and dangling light bulbs and serves a simple menu using organic produce from the gardens. Prices per night from about $12 for dorms and $48 for private rooms night; immhotel.com.

The dining room hosts intimate gatherings lit by flashing fairy lights, the garden room has trimmed artificial grass and the vintage barber's chair in the lounge is perfect for afternoon snoozes.

Dinner is served every night at 8:30 p.m. sharp and costs about $20 for a hearty four-course meal. Prices per night from about $35 for dorms and $90 for private rooms; livingloungehostel.com.

Read more on page 24 ››

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Rain delay

Tourism operators in the Maritimes are hoping the recent spate of bad weather has only caused a rain delay in travel, and not vacation cancellations. Officials say while they don't have any firm numbers yet, they have seen a drop in business, especially among people travelling within the region. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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The study is being conducted by Dr. Sagar Parikh at the Mood Disorders Clinic, Toronto Western Hospital.

For more information, call 416.603.5800 ext. 2870

University Health Network

RAHMAT GUL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pedal boats are anchored at a lake in Band-e-Amir, in the central Afghanistan's province of Bamiyan. The six azure lakes in Band-e-Amir are Afghanistan's first national park. Officials and international donors are promoting tourism in the Bamiyan area.

Sightseeing in Bamiyan

In Afghanistan, the fledgling tourism industry is an attempt at normalcy

There's a new building in Bamiyan, Afghanistan, and it isn't a military barracks or a hospital. It's a tourist information centre.

Even as troops fight militants in the south, government officials and donors in Afghanistan's central Bamiyan valley are training tour guides and teaching restaurateurs about customer service. It's an attempt to draw tourism and return one small part of Afghanistan to normalcy.

The challenges are many — landmines, dangerous roads outside Bamiyan, and, not least, Afghanistan's reputation as anything but a tourist haven. But the hope is to persuade history buffs and adventure seekers that Afghanistan can be safe, and locals are eager to give it a shot.

"The hope is to persuade history buffs and adventure seekers that Afghanistan can be safe, and locals are eager to give it a shot."

"I can improve my province this way, and my homeland," said 19-year-old Zahra Naseri, as she rattled off facts about the calcium carbonate that gives the ground a whitish cast around a series of cascading mountain lakes.

Naseri is one of about 20 people, mostly university students, who gather once a day at the tourist centre for lessons on how to become tour guides. "I want to show that Bamiyan is a historical place."

The training program is funded through a Geneva-based Islamic organization, the Aga Khan Development Network, as part of a $1.2-million US ecotourism program. All Afghan tourism initiatives are currently funded by international donors, according to Deputy Minister for Tourism Ghulam Nabi Farahi. New Zealand and Japan are big donors in Bamiyan.

Back in the 1960s, Afghanistan was a major stop on the "hippie trail" of backpackers and enlightenment seekers. Foreigners tramped through on their way to India, staying in teahouses and touring the ancient cliff-hewn Buddha statues destroyed by the Taliban in 2001. There are now signs that tourism is increasing again, however slightly. Airport and hotel records show more than 400 foreigners had visited the Bamiyan area by early June

Read more on page 19 »

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FINNAIR WHY FLY ANY OTHER WAY

RAHMAT GUL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A man stands at his handicraft shop in Bamiyan, central Afghanistan.

›› Continued from page 18

That's up from about 180 the same time in 2008, said Najibullah Ahrar, a representative from the information and culture ministry. He said many of them may have mixed work in the area with seeing the sights.

There's still much to attract: Towering cliff caverns hold remnants of the Buddha statues. Ancient cities have been preserved from looters by the very landmines that make them dangerous to visit.

But by the end of October, the major historical sites are expected to be landmine-free. The area around the Buddhas has already been cleared. Deminers are now clearing mines from the top of the cliff, from where they were washing down with the spring rains.

A 2-1/2-hour drive away through golden canyons sits Afghanistan's first national park, dedicated in June — the glassy Band-e-Amir lakes. Reflecting the jagged grey and red cliffs that surround them, the lakes have been described as Afghanistan's answer to the Grand Canyon.

Entrepreneurship is also on the rise. A pizza joint is about to open at the foot of the destroyed Buddha statues. One of the more popular hotels with tourists — The Roof of Bamiyan — is working on getting wireless Internet. And a hotel that caters more to business workers already has WiFi, run off a backup battery so it works even when the generator doesn't.

The UN Environment Program is also mapping out hiking trails between villages, with stops at waystations manned by locals.

"Afghanistan is definitely a good brand. People will come ... They go to Nepal this year, they go to Chile the next year, they're off to Afghanistan if it's accessible," said Andrew Scanlon, a protected areas expert working on the U.S. project. The plan, he explained, is "providing really, really fantastic outdoor experiences in natural landscapes that are somehow managed so it doesn't get out of control."

Scanlon is organizing a 21-kilometre run for late September, which he bills as "the world's most beautiful half-marathon, linking the cultural and natural landscape in Bamiyan." It will go through areas that were inaccessible a few years ago because of landmines.

Of course, there are still safety issues. In Bamiyan itself, there are no suicide bombings or roadside ambushes, no checkpoints to get from one part of town to another. The area — almost completely populated by the Hazara ethnic minority — doesn't have ethnic clashes.

Women walk past the cliffs in Bamiyan that once held giant Buddhas that were destroyed by the Taliban in 2001.

But tourists still have to get here. Road attacks mean that the eight-hour drive from Kabul to Bamiyan over a rocky dirt road can be dangerous. The only flights are for the U.S., or other aid or development workers.

The Canadian military operation's main sphere of operations in Afghanistan is in Kandahar province, in the southern area of the country. Canada has now lost 124 soldiers since the Afghan mission began in 2002.

One tour operator, Great Game Travel, stopped trips to Bamiyan last year because they were concerned about road safety. The nonprofits and private tourism companies say there are lots of plans to work out flights to the area, but no firm commitments.

And the country itself is of course still very much at war, with Taliban militants controlling large parts of the south and launching attacks in the east. Many western nations warn their citizens to stay away.

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Frequent flyer
Mark Malkoff, the man who spent the month of June living on airplanes, has set a Guinness World Record for the most scheduled flight journeys within 30 days. Malkoff's itinerary ranged from five to a dozen flights a day. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rather sporting **Paille Maille, anyone?**

OLI SCARFF/GETTY IMAGES

For the first time in 400 years, a game of Paille Maille is played on London's Pall Mall (in front of Buckingham Palace) by players dressed in period costume. In the 17th century, the pastime was so popular in the area it eventually bequeathed its name to the street.

UNESCO list adds Dolomites, drops Dresden

Italy's Dolomite mountains are among 13 new sites added to UNESCO's world heritage list.

Other new natural sites added to the list included the Wadden Sea wetlands, an area rich in wildlife in Germany and the Netherlands; and northern China's Mount Wutai, a sacred Buddhist site known for its five flat peaks and a landscape with 53 monasteries.

But in a rare move, UNESCO dropped Germany's Elbe River valley at Dresden from the heritage list because of a bridge under construction across the river, saying this spoils the landscape.

Dresden, whose historic centre has been painstakingly restored since it was ravaged by Allied bombs in 1945, is often referred to as the Florence of the Elbe because of the baroque architecture that gives it a distinctive skyline.

The UN agency's World Heritage Committee announced the additions to the list at a June meeting in Seville, Spain. The new designations included the first UNESCO World Heritage sites in the countries of Burkina Faso, Cape Verde and Kyrgyzstan.

The Cape Verde site was the city of Cidade Velha, the first European colonial outpost in the tropics, which UNESCO said bears testimony to the history of slavery.

In Burkina Faso, the designated site was the ruins of Loropeni, a thousand-year-old fortress important in the trans-Saharan gold trade.

In Kyrgyzstan, the site was Sulamain, a sacred mountain on the Silk Road with ancient petroglyphs and places of worship, including two 16th century mosques.

In Europe, other newly designated World Heritage sites were Stoclet House in Belgium, a 1911 building considered important in the history of the architectural styles of Art Nouveau, Art Deco and modernism; the Tower of Hercules, a lighthouse and landmark in Spain dating to the first century; La Chaux-de-Fonds and Le Locle, Swiss towns that were planned to accommodate the watchmaking industry; and Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and canal in northeastern Wales, built without locks and considered an engineering and architectural feat of the Industrial Revolution.

Elsewhere in the world, UNESCO added to its World Heritage list the Shushtar hydraulic system in Iran, an engineering masterpiece that dates to the 5th century B.C.; the sacred city of Caral-Supe, a 5,000-year-old archaeological site in Peru; and the royal tombs of the Joseon Dynasty in Korea, built from 1408 to 1966.

There are now a total of 890 properties on UNESCO's World Heritage list. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Exploring the coastline of Terra Nova

Jellyfish, whales, moose and icebergs are on offer at Newfoundland park

Two young children gather around Capt. Jan Negrijn aboard his tour boat as he hauls a large net from the floor of the Atlantic Ocean in Newman Sound.

Moments later, one of them squirms away while the other looks on in delight after Negrijn pours the net's contents into a glass jar. It's teeming with animal plankton and jellyfish.

"One of the things I used to do as a kid was muck about on the shore," Negrijn says with a laugh. "Now I'm retired and I'm doing it again."

Negrijn leads a tour aboard a converted lobster fishing vessel that aims to promote awareness of the vibrant ecosystem off the shores of Terra Nova National Park.

Like other tour boat operators in Newfoundland, he takes landlubbers within camera range of bald eagles, whales and icebergs. But, as a former commercial fisherman and university academic, he also offers a unique perspective on the sea and the environment surrounding it.

> **"One of the things I used to do as a kid was muck about on the seashore. Now I'm retired and I'm doing it again."** Capt. Jan Negrin

To the wonder of kids and parents alike, he places the animal plankton under a microscope, giving the curious a close glimpse of the bizarre-looking creatures that sustain aquatic life.

"That's why I tell the kids not to pollute the ocean," he says.

Designated as a national park in 1957, Terra Nova draws droves of visitors with its diverse array of flora and fauna. It's estimated that about 250 moose wander its woods and, with each consuming about 20 kilograms of vegetation a day, they've left an indelible mark.

Its rocky headlands, which jut out into the ocean, have earned Terra Nova the nickname Gateway to Fingers of the Sea.

But the natural beauty of this swath of Newfoundland's Bonavista Bay, Canada's most easterly national park, isn't confined to Terra Nova's borders.

On the northern periphery lies the Road to the Beaches, a short winding stretch that leads to Eastport, one of the province's most scenic communities.

Every August, the town of 500 hosts Winterset in Summer, a literary festival that has grown in popularity in recent years. The community also boasts a sandswept beach, which, if you're familiar with the province's rocky terrain, is a rare sight.

TARA BRAUTIGAM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The community of Salvage, N.L., on the northern periphery of Terra Nova National Park, is one of the oldest continuously inhabited communities in North America.

About a 10-minute drive northeast of Eastport, where the road ends, lies Salvage, one of the oldest continuously inhabited communities in North America. The picturesque community of 170 is on the edge of the Eastport Peninsula, a throwback in time to when the cod fishery ruled. Remnants of old wooden fishing stages, which were used to salt and dry cod, remain. A short hike up the Round Head Lookout offers a postcard view of the town, as well as of the icebergs that drift by.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Good to know

- Terra Nova National Park is about 225 kilometres northwest of St. John's, N.L.
- Pitching a tent in the 400-square-kilometre park is a popular and cheap means of lodging. There are two campgrounds, but the more hardcore also have the option of "primitive camping," which lacks access to the amenities the campgrounds offer such as washrooms and dumping stations. Reservations aren't necessary but recommended. Go to pc.gc.ca/pn-np/nl/terranova/index-E.asp for more info.
- There are numerous bed and breakfasts, motels and cabins in the small communities that border the park; as well as the Terra Nova Resort and Golf Community in Port Blandford, N.L., just east of the park. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Stripping for safety
New Zealand's national airline has adopted a new way to encourage passengers to watch its in-flight safety video: The cabin crew's uniforms are nothing but body paint. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Arriving home, intact

RoadWarrior
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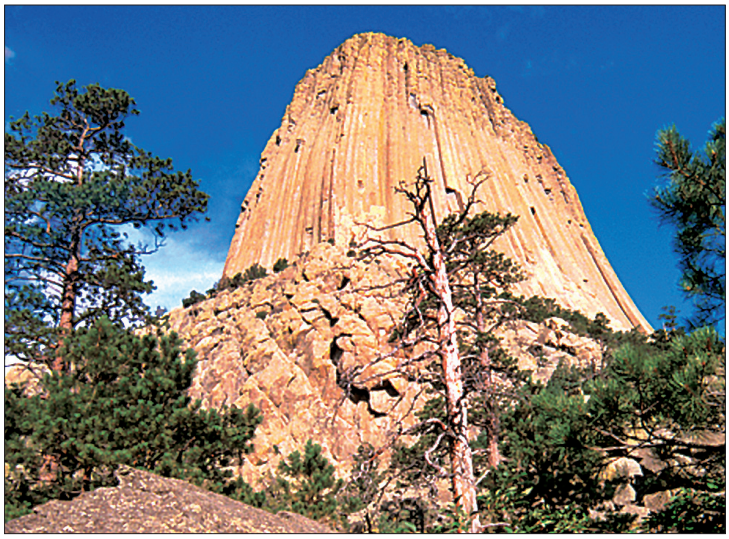
MARK RASMUSSEN

A view of Devil's Tower in Wyoming.

Wyoming's Grand Teton National Park was wet and overcast. The clouds were low when I rode through; they flowed over and wrapped themselves around the mountainsides. When they momentarily cleared, they revealed the Teton peaks, a row of massive black-and-gray teeth. There was still snow up on the high slopes.

The sun started to set, and everything turned to shades of black-and-white — the Tetons had become monochromatic. I stayed at a hotel in Jackson and fell asleep as day turned to night.

Riding Highway 191 back up from the Tetons into Yellowstone it began to snow. My original plan was to ride the Beartooth Pass — which crosses over Shoshone National Park and reaches an altitude of 3,340 metres above sea level — but the snow made that impossible. According to the park service, the pass was closed.

The wet and heavy snow made the ride tough. My visor fogged up, and to clear it I had to open it, slightly exposing my face to freezing pellets of sleet and snow. It felt like I was being pricked with a thousand needles. I was having trouble seeing the vehicles and road.

The conditions were deteriorating by the minute, and it was becoming a safety issue, so I revised my plan and changed course down hill, knowing the weather would be better once I got to a lower altitude.

Heading east on Highway 14 took me out of Yellowstone and down to Cody. I dropped over 760 metres in altitude between the two towns.

The sky remained grey and threatening as though it were just a matter of time before a new deluge fell from the skies. I continued down into Billings, Mont. to avoid Big Horn Pass, the last of the big passes on my trip. Mountain passes just weren't in the cards for this trip.

As if on cue, the weather improved upon my arrival in Billings. Then, running south to Sheridan along I90, the afternoon sun managed to break through, radiating a warm golden glow over the grasslands and foothills of the Bighorn Range. The road bobbed and weaved its way around the knobby hills and vast fields.

"The sun started to set and everything turned to shades of black and white — the Tetons had become monochromatic."

Miles of road stretched out in front of me. It was a great ride in warm weather on a nice fast road with beautiful countryside all around.

Devil's Tower and Mount Rushmore are easily accessible from the I90, so I stopped in at each location. These sights are awe-inspiring and worth the visit. I would have stayed longer at both but I was anxious to keep up the pace. The desire to get home was stronger than ever. I rode long stretches the last couple of days and arrived in Oakville late at night. I had finally made it back home.

All of the fears I'd had while planning the ride turned out to be baseless. It was a long and arduous journey, but it was without calamity — and just as predicted, I was weathered, tired and sore, but smiling from ear to ear.

Michael Jackson has been on a two-month motorcycle trip around North America; adventuremotorcycleroutes.ca.

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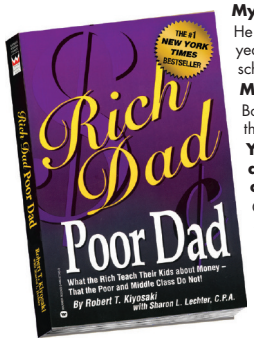

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The bar area at Mama Shelter, a hostel in Paris.

The lowdown on high-design hostels

>> Continued from page 17

Bohemian Barcelona
Centric Point, Barcelona: Escape the hubbub of Barcelona's Ramblas high street and go to Passeig de Gracia where you'll find this funky hostel. This is the ideal starting point from which to explore Barcelona, from the beaches to boulevards.

There's a traveller's desk from which you can book all sorts of activities and a common room with satellite TV, bar, Wii, foosball and music. Internet access and breakfast are included in the price so if you are a frugal traveller, fill up on flaky Spanish pastries and syrupy coffee.

Prices per night from about $32 for dorms and $82 for private rooms; centricpointhostel.com.

19th century loft
Miss Sophie's, Prague: Resembling a swanky New York loft, Miss Sophie's is more boutique hotel than hostel. Housed in an old 19th century building in the heart of Nove Mesto, the interior design is minimal — verging on austere — but the red brick walls add an element of shabby chic.

A guest room at Miss Sophie's, a hostel in Prague.

The mellow cellar bar with squashy leather sofas is an ideal place to socialize with other guests.

Dorms sleep up to five people making it friendlier and less intimidating than typical ram-packed rooms and the monsoon-style showers make you forget the downsides of shared bathrooms. The huge lockers situated beneath the beds mean you can keep your worldly possessions safe and sound. Prices per night from about $29 for dorms and $82 for private rooms; miss-sophies.com.

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Abdul eyes return to Idol
After talking in the spring about possibly moving on from American Idol, Paula Abdul is now optimistic she'll be back for another season of FOX's mega-hit. "I've been invited to stay the duration of the show, however long it lasts," Abdul said. PEOPLE.COM

Entertainment

Anna engaged?
Anna Kournikova has reportedly got engaged. The tennis player — who has been dating Enrique Iglesias on and off for eight years — has been wearing a large diamond ring on her wedding finger. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Hey Rosetta! is one of 10 acts up for the Polaris Music Prize.

Contenders for Polaris Prize a diverse group

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada

The race to crown the best Canadian album of 2008-09 has really begun, with the announcement of the Polaris Music Prize short list yesterday.

The top 10 acts, as chosen by 182 journalists from across the country, are a diverse group, with a hardcore group, a rapper, a Francophone band and two roots acts all vying for the $20,000 prize.

Since the winner won't be announced until Sept. 21, music fans can spend the summer debating who deserves to take home the prize. To help get the conversation started, we've reviewed all of the nominated albums.

The Chemistry Of Common Life, F—ed Up: These belligerent hardcore-meets-indie rockers are masters at the vocal yell, but intricate instrumentation and surprisingly infectious choruses temper the aggressive sound.

Three, Joel Plaskett: Plaskett's been making music since '94, but this ambitious triple disc might be his best yet. At times somber, rambunctious and passionate, these 27 eclectic folk pop songs rarely falter.

Troubadour, K'naan: The Toronto rapper's sophomore disc fluidly combines R&B, reggae and rock, with heartfelt lyrics about his tough upbringing in Somalia. It's wildly catchy and Kirk Hammett's guitar solo is a must hear.

Fantasies, Metric: Fantasies is another haunting collection of forceful rock 'n' roll from these Rolling Stones-approved rockers. Hear Metric's trademark keyboard buzz, crunchy guitars and Emily Haines' potent pipes.

Labyrinthes, Malajube: Don't let language get in the way — Labyrinthes is chunky compilation of straight-up rock. If anything, the unfamiliarity of the French lyrics make the foursome's third release that much more refreshing.

Soft Airplane, Chad VanGaalen: Quirky Calgarian Chad VanGaalen has released another masterpiece. While more indie pop than his last release, the record is still a diverse mix of layered lo-fi sounds — banjos and bells included.

Wooden Arms, Patrick Watson: Winning the Polaris Prize in 2007 hasn't stopped this Montrealer from creating another award-worthy release. Its airy, atmospheric sounds and spacious instrumentation will sit well with Radiohead fans.

Into Your Lungs (and around in your heart and on through your blood), Hey Rosetta!: If epic, thickly layered rock is your thing, look no further than this Newfoundland & Labrador six-piece. This debut is loaded with meaty riffs, complex arrangements and voracious vocals.

Mountain Meadows, Elliott BROOD: A more rollicking record than the band's previous disc, the Toronto trio's latest is a brilliant collection of folk country tunes. With gorgeous instrumental textures and singer Mark Sasso's raspy drawl, it's no shock they made the shortlist.

Lost Channels, Great Lake Swimmers: On Lost Channels, this Toronto group delivers another intimate set of folk pop tunes. It's the band's most cohesive and memorable, especially the richly layered harmonies on the soaring campfire song Still.

Revenge of the nerds

Hollywood loves stories about geeks becoming cool

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

When I Love You, Beth Cooper hits theatres this Friday, it will be the latest movie to turn the loser into lothario.

The story of a nerdy valedictorian winning the affection of the hot girl isn't just a familiar premise; it's also been consistently popular with movie audiences throughout the years.

Whether it's Jerry Lewis' geeky scientist inventing a potion to gain popularity in The Nutty Professor or the tale of two dweebs finally getting the girls in Superbad, Hollywood has always had an obsession with nerd love.

"The idea of nerds has become cool, even if nerds themselves aren't," recently stated Benjamin Nugent in a L.A. Times article. The author of American Nerd: The Story of My People, Nugent has made a career on deliberating dorks.

Although he acknowledges the ambiguous etymology of "nerd" stretches back to its appearance in Dr. Seuss' 1950 book, If I Ran the Zoo, the recent obsession with adoring dweebs can be traced to more current works.

Denis Cooverman (Paul Rust) and Beth Cooper (Hayden Panettiere) get to know one another over a long, wild and memorable night.

"If you look at shows like The O.C., the Seth Cohen character (played by Adam Brody) is a nerd," said Nugent. "But he became a heartthrob, and I think that was really something new."

However, even before dorks became teenage darlings, producers have admired stories that portray the nerd as unlikely seducer. Here's a brief look at the rise of geek love:

THE '80S: From explicitly-titled Revenge of the Nerds to the freak favorite Can't Buy Me Love, the '80s were inexplicably a fertile decade for producing nerd love stories. Maybe it was because, in hindsight, we all dressed like dweebs in 1985.

JOHN HUGHES: The greatest comedies of John Hughes still influence filmmakers today with their representation of nerds acquiring unlikely affection. Whether it's Sixteen Candles, Pretty in Pink or the dorky magnum opus Weird Science, Hughes knew how to tap into seducing our inner geek heart.

THE DIGITAL AGE: Much of the recent popularity of nerds has been attributed to the computer age's influence on media. With great fortunes amassed by the likes of Microsoft founder Bill Gates comes the inherent suggestion that intelligent geeks are more likely to succeed and thus attract the ladies.

THE MORAL: I should've obviously taken computer class way more seriously in Grade 8.

Movie **profile**

Slumdog star moves into apartment

Slumdog Millionaire child star Azharuddin Mohammed Ismail and his mother moved into their new home yesterday, leaving behind a corrugated metal slum shanty for four solid walls, doors that lock and an indoor toilet.

"I was shocked when I saw this house," Azhar, 11, said, before turning on one of his favourite Hindi songs and dancing around the living room. "I want to thank Danny Boyle for giving us this flat."

Boyle, the director of the Oscar-winning hit, and producer Christian Colson will transfer the $50,000 US one-bedroom apartment to Azhar's name when he turns 18, provided he finishes school.

Officials from the trust — set up by the filmmakers to secure an education, housing and a living allowance for Azhar and his co-star Rubina Ali, 9 — are actively searching for a new home for Rubina as well.

At the moment, Azhar has several new challenges to ponder — chief among them, what to put on the walls, and how not to forget one's house keys.

He held up pink and blue "Welcome" posters against the apartment's cheery yellow walls, considering which might be best —or whether to go with a shining red rendering of Mecca.

The apartment is on the ground floor of a seven storey brown concrete apartment building called "Harmony," which sits on a quiet cul-de-sac in the Santa Cruz West section of Mumbai, not too far from where Azhar attends school.

The windows look out on a leafy courtyard. Outside are the sounds of birds and the occasional passing train.

Azhar's mother Shameem Ismail said she is looking forward to their first night in the new apartment.

"God has given me so much," she said. "We will sleep very well tonight. There is no water leaking, no bad environment, no quarrelling."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pegg a father

Simon Pegg has become a father for the first time. The Star Trek star's wife Maureen McCann has given birth to a girl, but other details about the new arrival are yet to be released. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Candid portrait of Valentino

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

In the fashion world few names evoke as much awe and respect as Valentino Garavani. The Italian designer was a world leader in the field for 45 years, became a billionaire, and lives like royalty.

It's not surprising that Valentino would eventually become the subject of a documentary, but what is surprising is that Matt Tyrnauer's Valentino: The Last Emperor — opening Friday — is a candid portrait of the designer that reveals him to be stubborn and a control freak in addition to a genius.

The movie isn't an attack on Valentino's immaculate reputation, but an intimate portrayal of him as a human being.

As you'd expect, shooting a film like this about such a guarded public figure wasn't easy. "He almost quit every day and threatened to cut us off frequently," says director Matt Tyrnauer. The filmmaker often had to pretend he didn't shoot certain footage and constantly had to reassure Valentino during filming.

"I kept saying to him, 'If you don't seem human no one will like you. They'll hate you by the end of the film because you'll seem like Marie Antoinette. So it's OK to seem less then perfect.'"

It shouldn't come as a shock the first-time director was able to gain such access and insight into the life of Valentino given that he has been doing it for years as a profile writer for Vanity Fair. In fact, the origins of the movie can be traced back to an article on the designer that Tyrnauer wrote for that magazine. It was while writing that piece that he discovered the unique symbiotic relationship between Valentino and his longtime business partner Giancarlo Giammetti.

"The article I wrote was really the story of a marriage. I didn't care much about the fashion, although I think he's remarkable," says Tyrnauer. "But who has a 50-year relationship with someone who also makes them a billionaire? It's really a love story in a way. That became the whole crux of the film."

So the movie became a study of these two unique characters with Tyrnauer's ever present cameras capturing both their opulent lifestyle and the occasionally tumultuous working relationship of two perfectionists. It wasn't the puff piece that Valentino and Giancarlo expected and they were caught off guard when they finally saw the movie.

"They hated it," laughs Tyrnauer. "There wasn't enough fashion, there wasn't enough glamour, and there wasn't enough celebrity. But I refused to change anything." Fortunately their attitude shifted when the film screened at the Venice and Toronto film festivals. "The movie got a huge reception and a standing ovation both times. Valentino burst into tears overwhelmed with joy. He was completely turned around by that."

AARON VINCENT ELKAIM/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Valentino Garavani stands for the camera's on the red carpet for the opening of his new film Valentino the Last Emperor at the Elgin Theater during last year's Toronto International Film Festival.

Movie profile

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7/8/09	265	353	2 TVO	Life in Cold Blood		The Best of The Agenda		England Expects		*Memory for Max, Claire, Ida and Company*		
	211	331	3 GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Wipeout (HDTV) (N)		(9:02) In Plain Sight		The Philanthropist (N)		News
	215	343	4 OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6 CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Dragon's Den (HDTV)		Laughs	All Comforts	CBC News: The National		Stampede
	214	344	7 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Goode Family	Surviving Sub.	Japanese Game Show		Krod Mandoon	Krod Mandoon	News (N)
	212	313	8 CTV	Corner Gas	Hollywood	So You Think You Can Dance The top 12 dancers. (N)				CSI: NY (HDTV)		News (N)
	218	345	11 E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	Psych		D. Richards	Kendra	Kardashians	Candy Girls	News (N)
	137	763	13 TFO	Panorama été	Esprit	Sur la Piste de	Villages	*Train de vie* ★★ (1998, Com. dramatique) Lionel Abelanski.				Esprit
	-	-	14 -	Raymond	According-Jim	News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15 SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	*Young Ivanhoe* (1995, Drama) Stacy Keach.				To Serve and Protect		Becker
	-	387	16 CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		CSI: NY (HDTV)		News (N)
	-	385	17 NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	America's Got Talent		America's Got Talent (N)		The Philanthropist (N)		News (N)
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	219	346	20 ACH-B	The Road to Avonlea		Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	America's Got Talent (N)		Monk		News (N)
	-	-	28 FOX	Judge Judy	Two/Half Men	So You Think You Can Dance The top 12 dancers. (N)				Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61 PBS	News-Lehrer	Wait for God	Time Team America (N)		Ascent of Money (DVS)		Wide Angle (N)		Business Rpt.
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	296	654	331 SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (HDTV) (N)		WBZ News (N)	What's-Store	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
	298	653	332 TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Friends	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Next Model
news	502	390	26 NW	CBC News	Fortune	The Hour		CBC News: The National		Geologic Journey		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79 CNB	Kudlow Report		CNBC Reports		American Greed		Harvard Business		Mad Money
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	400	400	30 TSN	MLB Baseball Toronto Blue Jays at Tampa Bay Rays. (HDTV) (Live)						SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)		
	411	457	58 OLN	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Cycling Tour de France -- Stage 5. From Le Cap d'Agde to Perpignan.						Cycling
	417	406	81 SC	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Amer. Thunder	Amer. Thunder	Pinks (HDTV)	Pass Time	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pimp My Ride
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	616	521	39 SHO	The Outer Limits		The Guard (HDTV)		*A Daughter's Conviction* (2006, Mystery) Brooke Nevin.				House
	620	523	40 BVO	Montreal Jazz Festival		Arts & Minds	O'Reagan File	Wingfield	Wingfield	Death at-Opera	Broadway	Law & Order
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	621	527	63 STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		TMZ (N)	Lenny Kravitz	Canada's Next Top Model		Tonight Show-Conan O'Brien		TMZ
	553	546	65 TRE	Backyardigans	Nght Grdn	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Bucket-Dinos	Comfy Couch	Big & Small	Max & Ruby
	115	711	101 TVA	Les Gags	Histoires-filles	Les Anges de la rénovation		Nos étés		TVA 22 heures	(10:35) Juste pour rire (SC)	
	126	730	102 RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249 VIVA	Judging Amy		Medium		The Closer		Mediums	Psychic Detect	Mediums
	300	601	301 M1	*August Rush* ★★ (2007, Drama) Freddie Highmore.				*Elizabeth: The Golden Age* ★★ (2007, Historical Drama)				*Swing Vote*
	305	612	306 PIX	(7:10) *The Nature of Nicholas* ★★ (2002, Drama)				*The Faculty* ★★ (1998, Horror)			*The Song of Hiawatha*	

critics'corner

Criminal Minds

The members of the Behavioral Analysis Unit investigate a series of deaths with eerie religious overtones, but none of them is more unsettled than Prentiss (Paget Brewster), who has a personal connection to one of the victims. Walton Goggins ("The Shield"), Bruce Davison and Roxanne Hart ("Chicago Hope") guest star in "Demonology." 9 PM on CBS

Anna and Kristina's Grocery Bag

What's a flexitarian? No, it's not someone who worships bodybuilders. The word refers to people who eat a mostly vegetarian diet but don't completely abstain from meat. In the new episode "Flexitarian Cooking," Anna and Kristina attempt to create a meal that will satisfy carnivores and vegetarians alike — no matter how flexible or inflexible they are. They also perform a taste test on tofu. 8 PM on W

In brief

MOVIES Mission: Impossible II director John Woo's next movie will tell the story of the Flying Tigers — volunteer American pilots who defended China from Japanese attacks during the Second World War — his producer said yesterday. Woo plans to start shooting late this year. The project will be a collaboration with the government of southwestern Yunnan province, where some of the volunteer pilots were based, Chang said.

PEOPLE Actor Benicio del Toro met with convicts inside a Puerto Rican prison Monday, offering encouragement to a jailhouse theatre group and a few tips from his own Oscar-winning career. The Puerto Rico-born actor interrupted his vacation in the U.S. Caribbean territory for the talk at Bayamon Regional Prison outside the capital, San Juan.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kenya's Style

Kenya Hunt

Read the blog at metronews.ca/kenyasstyle

For complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and tickets, visit: metronews.ca/movies

Roasting Rivers
Kathy Griffin will serve as Roast Master at Comedy Central's Roast of Joan Rivers, the network announced. TVGUIDE.COM

From Iran to the top 4

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

Maryam Massoumi may not have won Canada's Next Top Model, but she left the show with a new understanding of what it means to be Canadian.

"When I entered this country, I was always fascinated by all the people from different countries. I've never had that," said Massoumi, 18, from North Vancouver, B.C. "It was such a great experience to know 'Canadian' doesn't mean you have to be blond and everything."

Massoumi immigrated to Canada from Iran two years ago and, while on the show, she admits the language barrier separated her from connecting with her competition, but said she was never isolated from them. "It was great to communicate with all the girls because I'm part of them and I'm becoming Canadian."

Canada's Next Top Model airs Tuesday nights on CTV

The remaining four women faced off in a runway challenge on last night's episode, after priming with runway coach and America's Next Top Model judge, Miss. J. Alexander. The hopefuls had to march delicate museum-piece dresses made by Canadian designers down the runway, being careful not to tear them.

Despite warnings about the garments' fragility, Massoumi accidentally tore a section on Linsay Willier of Edmonton's dress while trying to help the seamstresses fitting her. The tiny tear became a large rip when Willier tripped while climbing stairs to the runway, calling into question both Massoumi and Willier's attention to direction.

However, both women redeemed themselves during the week's photo challenge with judge Mike Ruiz. The contenders were charged with producing a softer photograph for CoverGirl; the winner's to be used in an actual national campaign.

Maryam Massoumi left the show with a new understanding of — and appreciation for — what it means to be Canadian.

While the judges reviewed all of the images with general favour, Willier's was chosen as the best and Massoumi's involvement in the dress-ripping incident ultimately sent her packing, leaving just three women to compete for the Top Model title.

"I wasn't sad that I got kicked off before the top three because I was in the top four and really proud of myself," said Massoumi.

But reaching that position didn't come without its trials. Twice during the competition, Massoumi couldn't participate in the same challenges as the other women because they were held outside Canada and she didn't hold a Canadian passport.

While some of her competitors expressed it wasn't fair for Massoumi to remain in the competition because of the restriction, she maintains her photographs are what kept her there.

"I think it was totally fair because I took great pictures and that's all the competition is about."

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Married twice

While Pam Beesly may be headed down the aisle with Jim Halpert on NBC's The Office, her real-life alter ego is altar-bound, too — Jenna Fischer recently got engaged to writer Lee Kirk, 37. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Case will be dismissed: Reeves' Lawyer

The woman seeking a DNA sample from actor Keanu Reeves said Monday that her family deserves compensation if he fathered of any of her children — an untested paternity claim that the star's lawyer flatly denied.

Karen Sala said she and her four grown children had been "through hell and back" in her fight for millions in child and spousal support from the star of The Matrix.

However, Lorne Wolfson, the Hollywood star's Toronto-based attorney, said he believes the case will be swiftly dismissed.

Sala, 46, of Barrie, Ont., filed legal documents in May seeking that Reeves be ordered to undergo a DNA test. Both she and Wolfson made a brief appearance Monday in family court, where a case conference was set for Aug. 20.

Sala alleges she carried on a sexual relationship with Reeves before, during, and after her troubled marriage. She said she believes Reeves may have fathered one or more of her four children, now between the ages of 20 and 25. None of her allegations have been proven in court.

"Mr. Reeves' position is that the claims are totally frivolous, that he never had an intimate relationship with Ms. Sala, that the children are not his children," Wolfson said outside court.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DJ Martin Streek dead at 45

DEATH Former Toronto radio host and popular alt-rock DJ Martin Streek has died. He was 45.

Former colleagues at the Edge 102.1 say Streek passed away Monday. Streek developed a strong following for his live broadcasts from local clubs. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Staying on his toes
Daniel Radcliffe is taking ballet lessons. The 19-year-old actor is so worried he won't be able to find a job after the Harry Potter films he has decided to don tights and slippers in a bid to make him more employable, femalefirst.co.uk reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Katie launches dance fund

HOT STEPPER Katie Holmes has teamed up with Hairspray director Adam Shankman and reality TV guru Nigel Lythgoe to launch a dance scholarship fund, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Hollywood actress, who is set to appear on Lythgoe's U.S. show So You Think You Can Dance later this month, has joined forces with the pair and Dancing With the Stars judge Carrie Ann Inaba to set up the Dizzy Feet Foundation.

The scholarship organization gives underprivileged youngsters the opportunity to take part in dance programs and win grants to enrol in accredited dance studios, reports Daily Variety.

Holmes says, "I think it's important for children to experience music and dance.

"Every child should have the opportunity to discover what it is they like and have access to the very best in that pursuit."

The Batman Begins star will show off her moves on the dancefloor during a special 100th episode of So You Think You Can Dance on July 23, in which she will perform a tribute to Judy Garland.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

College comeback?

SHOWBIZ VS. SCHOOL Anna Paquin plans to return to school one day — because she regrets not graduating from college, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

The star, 26, enrolled at Columbia University in New York after earning her high school diploma, but quit after just one year to focus on her acting career. Paquin insists she will go back to Columbia to complete her higher education eventually — even though she has no plans to leave showbusiness.

She tells AOL Television, "I did a year (of college) right after high school, because I was curious to see if there was anything else that made me as passionate ... and all it really did was clarify that I was exactly where I wanted to be (acting).

"It was great, and at some point I do intend to go back and finish. (But) this is definitely my arena of jobs — either writing or directing and producing." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Lohan sued over her new tanning spray

LAWSUIT Looks like Lindsay Lohan is in trouble again, only this time it's in the courtroom.

Lohan is being sued by St. Petersburg, Fla., chemist Jennifer Sunday, who claims the actress and her partner on the project, Lorit Simon, stole the formula for Lohan's new Sevin Nyne self-tanning spray, according to the St. Petersburg Times.

"We are certainly looking for the profits that are being generated right now from that product," attorney Marcia Cohen tells the newspaper.

"If Ms. Lohan and Ms. Simon and their companies and their shareholders are profiting from the theft of my client's formula and are profiting from that product, my client is entitled to those proceeds."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Beckham, Jolie to hook up in ads

NAUGHTY PHOTOS Angelina Jolie recently signed up with Armani, and now plans are reportedly in the works to team her up with the fashion line's other celebrity face, David Beckham, for a steamy ad campaign. "When you have David Beckham and Angelina Jolie signed up to your fashion house it's a no brainer to link them up," a source tells WAday.com.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ignore the guys you want

WHAT'S HOT, WHAT'S NOT Supermodel Bar Refaeli knows a thing or two about snagging big-name boyfriends — like her ex, Leonardo DiCaprio. So her seduction tips are worth listening to.

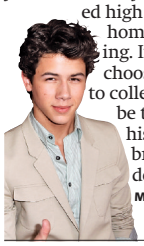
"My plan is don't try too hard. When girls try to be sexy it's not sexy to me," Refaeli says, according to Contact Music. "The sexiest I ever felt was the first time I put on a dress and went dancing with my friends. The way to impress a cute guy in a bar is to ignore him."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Youngest Jonas headed to college?

SCHOOLIN' IN THE REAL WORLD Youngest Jonas Brother Nick Jonas was spotted touring Northwestern University in Illinois this week, student sources tell Slash Gossip. The 16-year-old recently completed high school via home-schooling. If he chooses to go to college, he'll be the first of his famous brothers to do so.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Stewart gets friend to buy pregnancy test: Rumours

COULD IT BE TRUE? Twilight star Kristen Stewart is allegedly worried she might be pregnant — and that the father is co-star Robert Pattinson, according to Australia's New Weekly magazine.

"She asked one of her friends to buy the test because she was worried about someone seeing her at the drug store," a source tells the magazine. "She's very nervous about the whole situation. And because of the timing, she thinks Rob could be the father."

METRO WORLD NEWS

ComicsOnline

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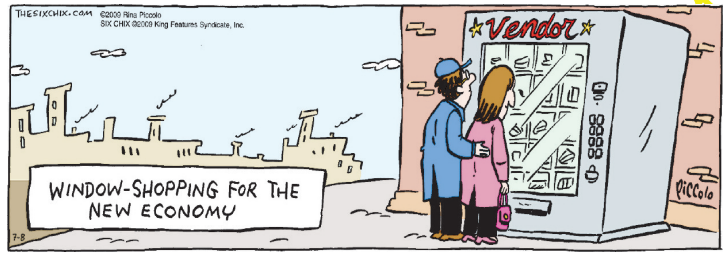

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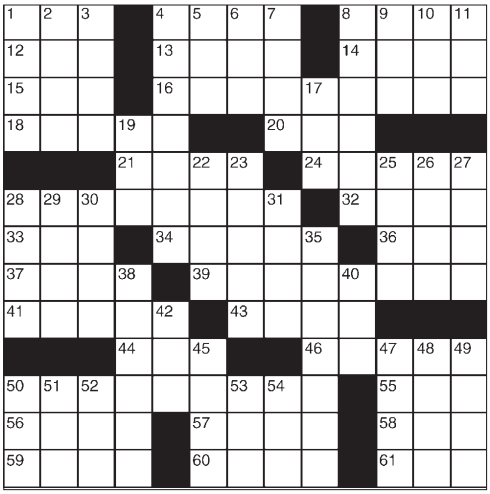

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

7				4			8	2
3	2		1				5	
		1	2		8	7		
		9		8		3	4	
6			4		7			1
	3	4		1		8		
		3	6		1	9		
	1				3		6	8
9	6			5				3

Crossword across

1 Make up your mind
4 Syndicate boss
8 Applaud
12 Neither mate
13 On in years
14 "Clue" weapon
15 Work with
16 Excellent
18 Bundle of wheat
20 Long lunch?
21 Brat's stocking stuffer
24 Receded
28 Uneaten
32 Thy
33 Puncturing tool
34 Painter of ballerinas
36 Raw rock
37 Movie holder, once
39 PDQ
41 Abject terror
43 Rend
44 Shell game item
46 Old Christmas gift?
50 "Cheers!"
55 Debtor's letters
56 Columbus' home
57 Shakespearean villain
58 Wrestling surface
59 Ostentation
60 London neighborhood
61 Type squares

Crossword down

1 Responsibility
2 Luxurious
3 Genealogy chart
4 9 Lives product
5 Past
6 Vigor
7 Probability
8 Ill-natured
9 Despondent
10 Gorilla
11 Apiece
17 Wish undone
19 Put on a show
22 State with conviction
23 On the up-and-up
25 Benefit
26 Modern money
27 Game show host Carey
28 Fat
29 Basin accessory
30 Take off
31 Anger
35 Hair cleaner
38 Computer type
40 Give it a go
42 Volente preceder
45 Writer Kingsley
47 Frost
48 Wander
49 Shacks
50 Jazz style
51 Discoverer's call
52 Allen or Conway
53 — Paulo
54 Reaction to castor oil

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

8	9	2	7	5	1	3	6	4
1	6	7	4	3	2	8	5	9
3	4	5	8	9	6	2	7	1
7	2	1	9	6	4	5	3	8
4	3	8	2	7	5	1	9	6
6	5	9	3	1	8	4	2	7
9	7	4	1	2	3	6	8	5
5	1	3	6	8	9	7	4	2
2	8	6	5	4	7	9	1	3

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SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min.....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Beef Balti

INGREDIENTS:

2 tbsp (25 mL) canola oil
1 medium onion
1 lb (500g) steak
1 clove garlic
1 1/2 in. (4 cm) piece fresh root ginger
1 small, fresh red chilli pepper
1 green pepper
1 red pepper
3 medium tomatoes
1/2 lemon
1 tbsp (15 mL) garam masala
1 tsp (5 mL) ground cumin
Salt

GARNISH

3 tbsp (45 mL) dried coconut, flaked or shredded

TO SERVE

4 nan breads

METHOD:

1. Preheat oven to low setting to keep beef warm later. Heat 1 tbsp (15 mL) oil in large balti pan, wok, or frying pan. Peel and thinly slice onion; fry over fairly high heat 3–4 minutes, stirring occasionally, until soft and lightly browned.
2. Meanwhile, trim excess fat from beef, then slice into very thin strips. Peel and crush garlic, then peel and grate ginger, and rinse, deseed, and chop chilli pepper. Add all to onion and cook over fairly high heat 5 minutes, stirring occasionally, until beef is lightly coloured. Remove from heat and keep warm in oven.
3. Rinse, deseed, and thinly slice peppers. Add to pan, with remaining oil, if necessary, and continue frying for 3 minutes, stirring occasionally, until softened and lightly browned.
4. Meanwhile, rinse and roughly chop tomatoes, then squeeze juice from lemon and preheat broiler.
5. Stir garam masala and cumin into frying pan and cook, stirring continuously, 1 minute. Add tomatoes, lemon juice, and some salt and simmer, stirring, 3–4 minutes. If mixture becomes dry, add little water.
6. Sprinkle nan breads with water and broil about 1 minute per side. Return beef to pan and heat through. Sprinkle with coconut and serve with nan bread.

SERVES 4

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ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
This may be an emotional time for you but it's not nearly the end of the world, so keep that smile on your face; better days are just around the corner.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
You will achieve more in the long-term if you get out and about now and meet as many new and interesting people as you can.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Do you have a clear purpose? Do you know what it is you want out of life? If you can answer those questions in the affirmative then success is close.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
There's no holding you back. The Sun in your birth sign endows you with enough energy and enthusiasm to reach your goals.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
There are no shortcuts to success — not that you were planning on taking any. Whatever you are working on you must give it your full attention.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Anyone who thinks you are not the sort who will rock the boat is in for a shock. You will do something today that turns heads.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Career matters are under excellent stars at the moment, so aim high, believe you have what it takes to succeed.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
The Sun in one of the best areas of the heavens means you have only to ask for something for it to miraculously appear in your life.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
You enjoy a bit of pressure and that's good because you will be expected to deliver something that is well above average today.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Upheavals of one sort or another appear to have become a feature of your existence in recent weeks but you really have nothing to worry about.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
If you push yourself just a little bit harder than usual, and if you aim just a little bit higher, you will accomplish something truly memorable today.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Your confidence has rarely been higher, to the extent that you honestly believe all things are possible — and they are.

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Empress Walk
Lawrence Square
North York Sheridan Mall
Sheppard Centre
Yorkgate Mall

OAKVILLE
Oakville Place
Winston Power Centre

OSHAWA
Five Points Mall
Oshawa Centre

PICKERING
570 Kingston Rd.
Pickering Town Centre

RICHMOND HILL
Elgin Mills Crossing
Hillcrest Mall
Richmond Heights Plaza
Time Square Shopping Centre

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Bridlewood Mall (Kiosk)
Cedarbrae Mall (Kiosk)
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2323 Yonge St.
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Chinatown Centre
College Park
Commerce Court
Dufferin Mall
East York Town Centre
Eaton Centre
Eaton Centre II
Exchange Tower
Gerrard Square
Holt Renfrew Centre
Scotia Plaza
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